

THE *Walter Hussey
May 1786*
H I S T O R Y
O F

Miss Jenny Salisbury;

ADDRESSED TO THE
Countess of ROSCOMMOND.

Translated from the FRENCH of the celebrated
Madame RICCOBONI.

In TWO VOLUMES.

VOLUME I.

D U B L I N:

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29 AUG 1958

THE
HISTORY
OF
MISS JENNY, &c.

I Find myself, Madam, under a necessity of laying before you an apology for my Conduct, or of leaving you under a persuasion that my behaviour is extremely singular, not to say altogether blameable. The very splendid offers I have received from two eminent Personages, have drawn a number of curious and inquisitive eyes upon me. All judge of me according to their own notions, and condemn me upon their own principles.

Who can imagine that I have any reasonable motives for rejecting an immense fortune? In the opinion of the generality of mankind, moderation is a quality of little account: It is rather considered as an indication of an indolent temper, and of a groveling mind, than as the result of solid and judicious reflection, or the effect of an exalted virtue.

As I am free from all particular attachments, I have not adopted the prejudices of any condition in life; I am not ambitious of singularity, and I should blush to affect a philosophy which more frequently serves to conceal pride and vanity, than disinterested

virtue. With respect to the circumstance concerning which you have expressed yourself with so much zeal, I act altogether from my own persuasions. If my own conscience approves my conduct, I can rest satisfied, and disregard the approbation of the multitude ; but I can never, Madam, be indifferent with regard to your good opinion, which I shall always esteem it an honour to deserve.

I confess, Madam, that you are not misinformed. A nobleman who is rich, powerful, much esteemed, cloathed with many honourable distinctions, pays his addresses to me with the most ardent assiduity ; he is young likewise ; he is universally allowed to be engaging ; he has long since entertained a fondness for me. A passion preserved inviolably for five years, may seem to give him some right to hope, to expect, nay to demand the reward of his constancy. I reject his solicitations, every one is surprized at my conduct, and you yourself, madam, you *do not approve of this obstinate refusal.*

Lord Alderson espouses the pretensions of my lover. It is rumoured abroad that he has an intention of adopting me. In fact, he has declared his design of disinheriting his relation Sir Henry Lindsey, in my favour. Immense riches are offered to me. Nothing is required of me but one single declaration : And I am pressed to make it, by one who has sufficient influence to render her persuasions effectual. . . . Ah, madam, What declaration ! What husband is propos'd to me ! And what guardian has a right to expect tenderness and respect from me ! When you exhort me by your letters not to slight *such vast advantages*, are you acquainted with my condition ? Do you know who I am ? Are you acquainted with those, whose sentiments appear to you so full of generosity ? You charge me with a perverse opposition, to the kind intentions of a venerable old man. I will not, you say, give my consent to *an adoption* which would overwhelm him with joy : Ah, I now from my soul despise both the title of his daughter, and the motive which inclines him to confer it upon me. This old man was deaf

to my cries, when my extreme wretchedness obliged me to throw myself at his feet. He was proof against my tears, at a time when the least assistance from him might have determined my destiny, and have made me happy ; it was his duty then, to have sheltered me from those dangers to which indigence exposes a young, handsome and friendless fair one, who had been a stranger to want, and found herself abandoned to poverty ; who found herself on a sudden cast from a state of ease and affluence, among the children of distress ; among those wretches who are condemned by poverty to limit their faculties, and restrain them to the single attention of providing for the urgent necessity of preserving their existence : Hard lot ! which obliges them to suffer from day to day, in order to procure the means of enduring the same wretchedness to morrow.

I might perhaps forgive Lord Alderson, for having exposed me to the hardships which I underwent through his cruelty ; but I cannot pardon him for not having prevented those effects which he ought to have foreseen. We may forget misfortunes ; time itself weakens the recollection, but a sense of shame is indelible. It is owing to Lord Alderson, it is owing to his cruel repulses, that I am reduced to blush at the very name of the husband he proposes to me. How shall I acknowledge him as a parent, how can I ever persuade my heart to love and respect him ! Ah ! how can I bestow that tender name upon one who treated me with such inhumanity. He has withheld from me the only benefit which, in truth, we have a right to exact from our parents. Is it not their duty to provide for us with the most vigilant solicitude, to protect us with the most careful attention, to support us in the station wherein we are born, to direct us how to fulfill the duties of that station, and to secure us from those snares, which vice incessantly spreads beneath the steps of innocence.

A language like this no doubt surprises you. You never expected that I would use such a stile in speaking of Lord Alderson. But I am not, Madam, what I appear to

be. Ushered into the world under a fictitious name, I am supposed to be a relation to Lady Anglesey. A series of melancholy events, obliged me to receive with thankfulness a title which concealed my condition, and my misfortunes from the eyes of the world. By relating them to you, I am persuaded that I shall recall your affections, and incline you to that kind indulgence, which you have so often expressed with regard to my sentiments. To make you acquainted with the manner in which the two Lords, whose interests you seem to espouse, have conducted themselves towards me, will be to engage your approbation, nay your participation, of that just disdain, with which both the one and the other inspires me.

You have not forgotten, Madam, the amiable Sally Alderson. You were in Ireland when she died. You lamented the companion of your infancy, and the remembrance of her still survives in your affectionate bosom. This similitude you discovered between her features and my own, first gave you a desire to form, and to continue that connection, which is become so dear to me. Know then, Madam, that I owe my birth to that unfortunate fair one, to that deplorable victim to a capricious father, proud of the rank of his ancestors, but little solicitous to secure the happiness of his descendants. Let me not, by the confidence I repose in you, forfeit that esteem you have so long entertained for me; suspend your judgment. My mother was frail; but she was not contemptible. They would compell me to become her accuser myself; they press me to expose her, and to exhibit proofs of her frailty; they would counter-balance the respect I owe to her memory, by vain distinctions, rich possessions, the pride of heraldry, and the pomp of titles. May these vain monuments of pride sooner perish for ever than I acquire them by such a blameable conduct! I despise the child who, for the sake of an interested claim, would dishonour the parent whom she acknowledges as her mother. No, it shall never be said that I disturbed her ashes by a publick recital of her misfortunes. I can with confidence, Madam, commit them

them to your bosom, but they shall never become the subject of a base litigation between Sir Henry Lindsey and myself. This relation of Lord Alderson's has lately incurred his displeasure, by yielding to the bias of his affections, and preferring an amiable fair one to a rich heiress, who had been designed for him. His Lordship proposes to withdraw his kindness from him. An act of parliament stands in the way, and makes it difficult for him to alter the settlements he has made. It is from his eager desire of punishing Sir Henry, that he makes me the offer of owning me, and presses me to sue him in Chancery. My lover, whose obstinate passion is not discouraged by my constant disdain of his addresses, has promised to procure him the title of Duke, the instant that he receives me from his hands: Thus, ambition and revenge, in Lord Alderson's mind, take place of those *generous sentiments* which you attribute to him. But the unfortunate wretch whom he abandoned so long, cannot be deceived in him. No; I will not deprive Sir Henry of a splendid inheritance; Lord Alderson's schemes cannot interest me, nor correspond with my views. I will have nothing to do with him, I will neither see him, nor enter into any negociation respecting his intentions. From what I am going to relate to you, you will be able to judge, Madam, whether my refusal is well founded, and perhaps you will no longer accuse me of caprice and cruelty.

Lord Alderson, one of the richest peers of Great Britain, passed the early part of his life at London. He was well made, and of a most amiable figure. After having visited the different courts of Europe, he returned home with a thousand new accomplishments. By means of his travels, and his industrious researches, he acquired a peculiar taste for all external accomplishments. He understood musick, danced admirably, had a good share of vivacity, but little understanding, and still less principle. His conversation was fluent, but his sentiments were bad; he was vain, forward, inconsiderate, fond of himself, and neglected every thing except his own person. Though he was a stranger to love, he made it his study to feign a passion, and

he placed his chief glory in the persuasion that he inspired a mutual ardor. He soon became the object of female infatuation, among those of the sex, whose lively imaginations and insensible hearts, would conceal the propensity which determines them to the pursuit of pleasure, under the name of a tender frailty. Less culpable, perhaps, if the allurements of pleasure alone seduced them; and more happy, if they did not so often pursue it in vain.

Lord Alderson continued for some time in vogue; but he ceased to be agreeable, and from that time has been inconsolable. It very frequently happens that they, who have the kind of merit which he possessed, never acquire more solid accomplishments, and soon find themselves rejected by one sex, and despised by the other. This his Lordship experienced. Neither his birth nor fortune could secure him from this hard fate. When he had attained an age which qualified him to fill employments suitable to his rank, he had the mortification to find others appointed in preference to himself, who might be deemed his inferiors, but whose good qualities nevertheless justified the choice of their Prince, and the esteem of their country. Having scarcely attained his thirtieth year, he quitted London, and retired to Northumberland, where he had an estate, with a resolution to live there, to form a court of his own there, and never more to appear at that of London.

His assuming temper and ostentation, which was more calculated to make him disgust the indigent nobility, than to engage him to pay proper regard to others of inferior rank, his vast admiration of himself, his extreme capriciousness, and little complaisance, rendered him very unfit to conciliate the affections of his neighbours. The gentlemen of the county paid him those cold respects which are due to men of distinction. His rank claimed regard, but his person inspired indifference. Thus the compliments of his neighbours being confined to short visits, his Lordship found himself alone. He soon perceived that felicity did not always accompany retirement, which does not suit every condition, nor every character.

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This restless state of mind determined him to make a tour round the different places where he had any possessions. He made a voyage to Ireland, there he saw Lady Oneale, a young beautiful widow of quality, but without fortune. He married her, returned to England with her, had a son and a daughter by her, and after five years cohabitation, lost his lady, with whom he experienced so little endearment, that when he found himself disengaged, he made a solemn oath never to enter into a second union. Lady Sarah, his daughter, was placed at a boarding-school near London; and his son and heir, the only object of his concern, remained at the family seat, where his lordship had fixed his residence since his marriage.

This favourite youth, being carried off at the age of fourteen, by a malignant fever, left his sister heiress to a very large fortune. I will not describe Lady Sarah to you, you have seen her, Madam; having been educated together, you had an opportunity of making yourself acquainted with the qualities of her mind. The surprize and tenderness you expressed when you found her picture in my apartments, were sufficient to assure me that the traces of her person were not worn out of your recollection. To the graces of that beautiful figure which the canvas presents, Lady Sarah united the most noble and generous sentiments. She was blest with an equanimity of temper, a sensibility of heart, and a tenderness of disposition. Her elevation of mind inspired her with resolution, but her mildness of temper endued her with complacency, and formed her to that agreeable and amiable character, which, without promoting its own felicity, contributes to the happiness of all around it.

Lord Alderson lamented the loss of his son exceedingly; not that he loved him with a tender affection; but that son was to preserve his family from extinction, and to transmit a name for which his lordship had a violent partiality. The death of the young Lord having ruined his expectations, he sent for his daughter home, and proposed to give her in marriage. He at first designed her for his sister's son, the father of Sir Henry. He

proposed to transfer his titles to that baronet, and oblige him to bear the name and arms of Alderson; but that nephew being absent, and very far distant from the kingdom, his lordship was not forward to declare his intentions.

Lady Sarah had resided about six months with her father, when the Earl of Revel took up his abode at Wersteney, a beautiful seat which he had lately purchased within three miles of Alderson. A very grievous wound had obliged him to quit the service. He did not propose to be long absent from court. His presence and influence there were too necessary for the service of a young nobleman, whose happiness and promotion he had nearly at heart. In the person of this young Lord, the Earl loved and patronized the son of his illustrious friend, who was formerly dear to his affections, and was ever present to his thoughts. You may remember, Madam, that the late Duke of Salisbury, after having endeavoured for many years to support a weak and unfortunate party, at length paid for the attachment he preserved to the family of his old master, with the price of his head. All who belonged to him were involved in the ruin of his fall. His destitute family went in search of an asylum far distant from their country. Edward his son, then an infant in his cradle, and who had lost his mother before that terrible event, was left to the care of Lord Revel. That nobleman, attached to the unfortunate Duke of Salisbury by the most tender friendship, regarded his son as a precious charge, and as an object, who might revive all the affections he entertained for his father. He proposed to give that beloved youth a fortune equivalent to that which he had lost by his father's unhappy fate. A laudable generosity inspired the Earl with frugality, taught him to retrench those superfluous expences which impoverish the great, and deprive them of the means of being liberal. Lord Revel sacrificed fashion to benevolence, his fortune augmented considerably, by the assiduity with which he managed it himself; and he applied all his attention to render his pupil accomplished. Edward who was of a mild and grateful nature, made such improvements under

under so excellent an education, that at the age of sixteen he was without an equal in England. He had attained his twenty-second year, when the Earl of Revel made the purchase of Wersteney. Having been about six months returned from his travels, the young Lord, who had just entered into the English service, repaired to his regiment for a short time, and about the middle of autumn he took up his residence with Lord Revel.

The proximity of their abode giving Edward and Lady Sarah opportunities of frequent interviews, they were not long before they discovered that they were formed to be mutually agreeable to each other. Lady Alderson admired Edward, and he felt so strong a desire to conciliate her affections, that losing all relish for amusements, he fell into a deep melancholy, which Lord Revel quickly perceived. The discovery made him uneasy, and he was anxious to learn the cause of Edward's inquietude. He, naturally open, could not treat such a generous friend with reserve; he disclosed his affections to him with that frank sincerity, which is inseparable from a noble mind, and freely confessed that all his hopes of felicity were ruined, if his Lordship disapproved his sentiments.

The Earl could have wished that his inclinations had been fixed on some other object. He had no esteem for Lord Alderson, and seldom visited him; nevertheless he did justice to the acknowledged merit of his daughter, who was loved and respected by all the neighbouring nobility. Besides, she was heiress to a large fortune; this consideration inclined the Earl in favour of the marriage. He made earnest solicitations to get Edward restored to the dignity of his family. The King seemed disposed to grant him that favour. The hopes of obtaining this re-establishment, an illustrious birth, a thousand amiable qualities, the rich presents from Lord Revel, the assurance of being his heir, all these circumstances together, rendered Edward so advantageous a match, that it seemed difficult for Lord Alderson to form the least objection against so suitable an alliance. The Earl of Revel courted his

friendship, and taught Lady Sarah's lover the art of accommodating himself to her father's insupportable vanity, without demeaning himself; thus, by gentle management and skilful preparations, he rendered Edward so agreeable to Lord Alderson, that the moment he opened the proposals for the desired union, the offer was received with joy, and the terms agreed to without hesitation.

Lady Sarah was not consulted; but her heart was so powerfully prepossessed in favour of Edward, that she found no difficulty in submitting to the injunction which required her to love him. The articles were concluded on. The day, which was indissolubly to bind this tender union, was already fixed, when the Earl of Revel was taken dangerously ill. He was at Lord Alderson's seat, when the fever attacked him. His wound opened, and his illness appeared so desperate, that it was not thought safe to remove him. He therefore remained at Alderson. Young Edward, who was always by his side, expressed so much concern for his condition, shewed such a tender and grateful disposition, a disposition so remote from those mean and interested considerations, by which those who have expectancies generally comfort themselves, and asswage their griefs, that Lady Sarah's affections became more warm and passionate. Edward was one of those characters who appear to greater advantage the more they are known, and who, with every rising opportunity, discover new virtues.

During the time that Lord Revel was confined to his bed, Edward and Sarah did not leave his room. They disputed with each other the pleasure of alleviating his melancholy situation, of comforting him, of beguiling his pains by their tender solicitude, and, when he found himself somewhat better, of inventing the means to amuse him in his recovery. Three months passed before his Lordship could stir from his apartment. During that time, the young lovers were accustomed to see each other, to indulge their affections, and to declare them. Their hearts were united by all those ties which are cemented by intimacy, and preserved by that kind and generous confidence, which height-

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ens all the charms of love, and adds to the vivacity of the passion all the solid sentiments of friendship and esteem.

Their happiness depended on the Earl's perfect recovery; which they both desired with equal ardor. At length the wished for day was appointed a second time. On the day preceding, Lord Alderson desired to review the articles, and to communicate to Lord Revel some alterations which he proposed to have made. The lawyers being present, he directed them to prepare the settlement according to his new propositions, and he shut himself up with the Earl to explain the particulars to him.

It was then about the beginning of Spring. Lady Alderson, who was on the point of attaining a felicity, which nothing, to all appearance, could disturb, became on a sudden quite perplexed and uneasy, and could scarce lift her eyes towards him, whose right to her was so near being decided. She shunned him without knowing the motive which prompted her to avoid him. When she quitted the table, she went into the garden, and was making haste to gain a wood in which she was fond of walking, when Edward followed her footsteps, joined her at the turning of a walk. Lady Sarah blushed, and was disconcerted at seeing him, that he was surprized and vexed at the appearance. He gently upbraided her on account of that air of dejection which overspread her countenance. A thousand doubts crowded into his imagination; he began to fear, for the first time, that, in giving him her hand, she only yielded to her duty. Her dejection, at the approach of that moment which was to give him possession of her charms, that moment which was so long expected, appeared to him owing to an indifference towards him, which she had hitherto dissembled, perhaps out of respect and submission. These suspicions, which he took no pains to conceal, affected Lady Alderson in a most sensible manner. The repeated assurances she gave of her affection, a frank confession of the involuntary emotions which disturbed her, and filled her with apprehensions, together with that air of truth and sincerity which accompanied her professions, soon dispelled Edward's mistaken jealousy.

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A small shower of rain began to incommod them. They hastened towards a grove surrounded with sweet shrubs, and embellished with some of the most beautiful flowers the season afforded. The shelter which this asylum yielded, determined them to stop there. They seated themselves on the turf, and for a few moments remained silent. The beauty of the spot, the infinite number of birds singing round them, the murmur of a cascade which appeared in perspective, altogether recalled to their minds that passage in Milton, where the first couple, who were lords of the creation, lifted up their eyes at the same time, to contemplate the wonderful scenes around them, and were struck with admiration at the very instant that their looks centered in each other. Lady Sarah began to recover her spirits, and her countenance seemed more composed. Her temper, which was naturally cheerful, already disposed her to blend an air of sprightliness with the most tender sensibility, when she perceived Edward immersed in deep reflection. She was alarmed, and pressed him to declare the subject of his thoughts. He declined it, sighed, and intreated her not to give way to curiosity, which he dared not gratify. While he was speaking to her, he riveted his eyes upon her with the most passionate fondness, and, by his eager looks, expressed a desire which he endeavoured to stifle. He seized her snowy hands, clasped them with ardour, and covered them with the most fervent kisses. The next moment he gently pushed them from him, seemed to avoid their touch, kept himself at a distance, turned his face aside, and seemed afraid lest she should discover what passed within him.

These strange emotions redoubled Lady Sarah's quietude. Ah, speak to me! speak to me, said she; have you any secrets with which you dare not entrust me, any chagrin whose bitterness my heart refuses to participate? Can you form any wishes with which I am not ready to concur? Ah, speak! This cruel silence makes me in my turn doubt of your affections.

Doubt!

Doubt ! you, my dear Sally, said Edward, can you doubt of my love ! Ah, repeat it to me a hundred, nay a thousand times ! That your wishes are ready to concur with mine. Lady Sarah made the most solemn protestation ; and she gave him a warm attestation of the honour and veracity of the vow she made. Edward, in a transport fell at her feet, threw his arms around her, and after a tender embrace, with a faint and tremulous tone, he said to her ; To-morrow we are to be married, you are to be given to me. I shall owe the happiness of possessing you to the solemn act which passes at that moment, to a public ceremony, to the commands of your father, to the bounty of my friend ! Why should I not this instant owe that excellent felicity to your own choice, to love, to our mutual desires ? The proof of your affection to day depends upon yourself. To-morrow it will be the indispensable result of that vow of obedience which you will have pronounced at the foot of the altar. Ah, if you love me, partake of my ardour, crown my wishes ; that I may be able to say, Sally, my dear Sally, bestowed herself upon her lover.

What is it you dare to propose, said Lady Alderson, interrupting him ? Is it to me ? Is it to her, who is to pledge her faith to you to-morrow, that you presume to express such offensive desires ? When a sacred engagement is at hand to fulfill all your hopes, would you . . . I would do nothing, said Edward gravely ; I desire, but I do not exact. I am rash, confident and blameable, no doubt, if you insist on the honour of a contract, and oppose to my desires the prejudices and customs of the world ; cruel chains ! whose galling links are forged by interest and policy. An emotion with which nature has inspired every sensible being, a sincere affection, an ardent desire, a passion for freedom, these are my rights. Complacency, love, and benevolence, should give them some influence over your heart. I have no reasons to object against your refusal ; but I feel a most passionate propensity to enjoy a bliss for which I may be indebted to your free gift, and which may assure me that I am really the object

ject of your preference. Yield, said he, redoubling his caresses, yield, my dear Sally; let kind consent compleat my felicity, my everlasting felicity. Ah, if I obtain this inestimable favour, I shall ever regard my wife as a tender and affectionate mistress. I shall daily recall to mind with delight and gratitude, that she made me happy of her own free will. I shall then conclude that love alone has given me possession of your charms; never, no never, shall I recollect such an amiable condescension without being affected; and if, in the course of our lives, any unforeseen event should interrupt our tender union, if I should ever presume to oppose the slightest of your wishes, awake my recollection with that proof of your esteem and confidence, and that alone will make me fall at your feet, and yield to your desires.

Ah, Madam, what language was this! A man who has the least art, is master of the dangerous talent of seducing a mind endued with sensibility.

Lady Alderson could only reply by her tears. The anger with which this proposition inspired her, was soon converted into tender pity. She blamed the extravagance of her lover, but she sighed to find him entertain a desire which she ought not to gratify. Her prayers, her mild representations, and some slight favours granted conditionally, only served to inflame a passion which she thought to moderate. She would have escaped from Edward's arms, or have kept him at a distance from her; he held her fast, he submitted to her will, he renounced his pretensions, and only intreated forgiveness for his temerity. He required some proofs that his attempts were forgotten; every moment rendered forgiveness more necessary, and his advances less alarming. The lost Lady Sarah cried out in vain, her agitation, her tears, her confusion rendered her more inviting. Edward transported by the violence of his passion, no longer heard or understood her; he ravished, or perhaps obtained that dear, that precious, that inestimable favour, so ardently desired, solicited with so much indiscretion, and refused with too little resolution.

What

What tumultuous joy appeared in the eyes of the young Lord! What soft confusion in those of Lady Sarah! What transports! What promises, what oaths never to forget that flattering moment. What pleasure might a woman enjoy, who has made her lover happy by her compliance, what a subject for self applause, to find herself the arbitress of his felicity, how delightful might that moment prove to her, if this agreeable delusion was not attended with I know not what bitter reflection, whose pungency we feel, though we cannot express. It proceeds no doubt, from the violence we have presumed to offer to our principles. The moment that we quit the paths of virtue, inquietude finds entrance into our minds; our first emotions inspire us with regret for what has passed, and a dread of what is to come.

Three hours had passed with rapidity, when Lady Sarah reminded Edward, that perhaps they were waited for to sign the articles, and she pressed him to return to Lord Revel. He would not leave her, he led her by the hand, and conducted her to her apartment. As they were crossing a gallery in their way thither, she perceived a number of domesticks in motion below, a carriage in the court yard with the horses put to, and beheld with surprize that it was Lord Revel's coach. Presently she heard that nobleman's voice. He called to the servants, from a drawing room underneath the gallery, and inquired with a tone of impatience, if they had not found Edward yet; commanding them to search every where for him, and to bring him directly.

A sudden terror seized Lady Alderon. A melancholy presage inclined her to turn her streaming eyes towards her lover. Ah, what is it, that disturbs him? said she; What has been the matter? Alas! if they should part us!

Ah! What raises such a dark foreboding in your mind? said Edward. Nothing now can divide us. How! Does the moment which confers felicity on me, draw tears from you? What do you fear; I swear to love, to adore, to respect my dear Sally for ever; to devote my life in testifying my gratitude and tenderness to her. Before her feet

feet I call to witness every thing that is held sacred. Lady Sarah, giving way to her tears, interrupted him, intreated him to go down, and to learn what occasioned the Earl to ask for him with such impatience, and to ask for him only. Edward went a few steps from her, then returned to her again, pressed her in his arms, and could not leave her. He said every thing which he thought likely to remove her apprehensions; but his speeches, his protestations, his caresses, nothing could calm the perturbation of her mind. Lady Sarah no longer felt within herself that placid security, which is the attendant on happy innocence; trouble and inquietude had already shed their deadly poisons in her bosom.

The moments which they had lately sacrificed to love, were the last of their felicity. Lord Alderson, inflated with that vanity which extends its views even beyond the grave, and creates a desire of perpetuating a name, which our heirs frequently dishonour, had intended that Lady Sarah should revive the branches of Rivers and Alderson, which were both to be re-united in her. The fancy he afterwards took to Edward, the grandeur and antiquity of the Salisbury family, flattered him and made him abandon his intention of bestowing Lady Sarah on his sister's son; but Lord Revel's tedious illness left him at leisure to entertain new ideas, and brought into his mind the design of obliging Lady Sarah's husband to bear the name of Alderson.

The situation in which the Duke of Salisbury's son stood, made Lord Alderson conclude that he ought not to consider himself above the rank of a common gentleman. As he intirely depended on the friendship of the Earl of Revel, being as yet uncertain of being restored to the rank of his ancestors, having little assurance that the king would allow him to bear his titles, he conceived that he might think himself happy in receiving one from the hand of Lady Sarah. Besides his affection for her was a security for his compliance; therefore, without condescending to impart his proposals to him, Lord Alderson thought nothing more was necessary than to obtain the Earl's consent. He did not imagine that he should find the least difficulty on his part; and under this confidence,

confidence, he opened his intentions to him: But while he flattered himself that they would meet with his ready approbation, he did not consider how much Lord Revel was attached to the memory of an unfortunate friend.

This nobleman had made it the object of his ambition to restore a family, of which the chief was still dear to his remembrance. As a reward for the long and faithful services he had with so much zeal rendered to his country, he wished, he required no other return than the re-establishment of Edward; this for twenty years past, had been the only object of his care, his pursuits, his wishes, perhaps even of his vanity, if we may nevertheless, without injustice, give such an appellation to the generous emotions of a mind true to friendship, whose pride turns to the advantage of humanity, and is delighted in being the instrument of happiness to others.

Nothing could equal the Earl's surprize at hearing Lord Alderson's proposal. It was with regret that he consented to Edward's courtship. He now repented his compliance. Lord Alderson's proposition disgusted him; but without discovering how much he was shocked at it, he endeavoured by mild persuasions to bring him back to their original plan and engage to sign the articles which had been prepared three months before.

He represented to him that it would be an indelible stain on Edward's reputation, to renounce the name of an unfortunate father; that by such a step he would seem to side with the enemies of his family, and to applaud the deadly sentence which was executed on the late duke; that he would cruelly deprive his relations, then dispersed over the world, of all hopes of ever returning to their country, to which he alone could open them a passage. He produced letters which assured him of a happy issue from his solicitations to the king. They promised that at the end of the approaching campaign, Edward should be re-established at court in all the splendor of one of the antient peers of the realm, that he should be restored to his estate, that he should re-unite all the titles of his family in his own person, and that he might in time hope for the offices and employments which his father enjoyed.

These

These favourable tidings, these brilliant assurances did not alter Lord Alderson's resolution. He had succeeded too ill at court to have any fondness for it, and he did not think that military honours were a reasonable compensation for the dangers to which they exposed themselves who were ambitious of obtaining them. Therefore, so far from yielding to reasons, which appeared to him to be frivolous, his reply manifested that his designs were absolutely incompatible with the Earl's views. He not only persisted in obliging Edward to bear his name, but he required further, that, contenting himself with Lady Sarah's fortune and Lord Revel's benefactions, he should quit the service, and reject all the favours of the court.

These points were discussed a long while, without, Lord Alderson's receding a jot. His daughter and his fortune were to be purchased at no other rate. He expressed himself with so much haughtiness, he shewed himself so determined to break all measures if his will was not complied with; he affected to confer such uncommon favours upon Edward, that the Earl at length, tired with such a preposterous arrogance, gave way to his resentment.

If he whom I have adopted, said he, whose sentiments I have formed by my instructions, should so ill answer my expectations, if he should have the meanness to accept of your alliance on such base conditions, he should never inherit my fortune. It is for the Duke of Salisbury's heir, it is for my friend's son, that I have allotted my possessions. As I have educated him to do honour to the illustrious family of my friend, I should have resolution enough to abandon him, should he dare to disgrace that family by such a mean compliance. What ! Renounce his father's name ! Desert the service ! And at such a time ! When the war which is just kindled calls upon him to join the generous and brave defenders of his country ! if the love with which Lady Sarah has inspired him, was capable, in his estimation, of counterbalancing such sacred duties, I should despise him: yes, he continued, starting with impetuosity from his fear, I should despise him, and his welfare would no longer concern me.

This

This discourse raised a terrible emotion in Lord Alderson's mind, but he strove to suppress it's violence, and resuming the conversation with a coolness which is more insulting than the sudden flarts of anger: I should not have expected, said he, ever to have been told, that my alliance, notwithstanding the price at which I have set it, could ever dishonour any one. You have not thoroughly considered what you have just now said, my Lord, at least I suppose so. But if Edward agrees to my proposals, are you determined to withdraw your friendship from him, to withhold your kind offices, and even to *despise him?* Yes, said the Earl, with a resolute tone; if you have already prepossessed him, if he submits to your proposals, he has lost a father in me, and I am henceforth a stranger to him.

What you have said is sufficient, replied Lord Alderson. Edward knows nothing of the matter, and you may continue your kindness to him. You have opened my eyes, and I am obliged to you for giving me an opportunity to discover the fault I was going to commit. As he said these words, he went out of his closet, and passing into the drawing room where the notaries were waiting, he took the settlement out of the hands of the person who was preparing it, and tearing it in a rage: I swear, said he, that Lady Alderson shall never be dutchess of Salisbury; and addressing himself to Lord Revel, he added, She shall neither bear the name nor title of that vile conspirator.

He had not finished his speech before the Earl, inflamed with passion, advanced towards him with such a fierce and menacing air, that two notaries thought proper to interpose between him and Lord Alderson. The latter surprized, and perhaps uneasy at the incident, immediately quitted the room, saying as he went out: My Lord, every thing is broke off; I hope you will allow me to take my leave of you.

The Earl would have been little disturbed at this rupture, but for the grief with which, he presumed it would pierce poor Edward's heart. How could he acquaint him with such an unexpected event! How could he desire

desire him to abandon his dear Sally, to renounce his love, and forego the hope of a felicity so near at hand, and with which his eager desires had been so long flattered! How should he tear him from that spot, and check the first emotions of an enamoured mind. These sensations were to be dreaded in a man of Edward's age. Love might triumph over every duty which he owed to honour, to his father, and to himself. They had been in search of him to no purpose for two hours. The mistake of one of the servants who imagined he had seen him in the park, occasioned those who went in pursuit of him, to shape their course towards the side opposite to that, whither he had retired with Lady Sarah.

While they were getting every thing ready for his departure, Lord Revel walked with hasty steps up and down the drawing room, where the quarrel arose. He ruminated with vast concern on the means of withdrawing the young Lord from that favourite spot, before he acquainted him with the fatal accident. Uneasy and perplexed, his imagination had suggested no expedient by the time that Edward, having quitted Lady Sarah's apartment, presented himself before him. The surprize he expressed at finding him alone, redoubled the Earl's perplexity. Lady Sarah's anxiety now found a passage into her lover's heart. Till that moment, he thought that they had waited for him, and sent to him to sign the assurance of his future felicity. The air of Lord Revel's countenance chilled him; he began to dread an explanation; and casting mournful looks around him, he had not the courage to break this awful silence.

Lord Revel observing his consternation, seized the opportunity; he advanced towards him, took him by the hand; and leading him out of the drawing room: A whim, said he, of Lord Alderson's, indeed a want of foresight on my part, obliges me to go immediately to Wersteney. I have occasion for you; the business which carries me thither concerns you; it is of an urgent nature; I cannot stay, come away. As he uttered these words, he led him towards the coach.

Edward,

Edward, who had been accustomed to obey him, being quite shocked, and in that state of stupefaction which is occasioned by astonishment, and the expectation of some disastrous news, placed himself without any resistance by the side of the Earl. The coach at that instant set off, and drove away with rapidity.

Lady Alderson, who was in the utmost impatience and agitation, had not power to quit the gallery, where she waited the return of Edward. What did she feel, when she saw him leave the house, get into the coach with the Earl, and take the road to Wersteney? Her looks followed the carriage so long as she could perceive it. When she could discern it no longer, she remained motionless on the balcony which supported her. What could have happened in so short a time? Whither was Edward gone? Did he fly from her? Did they force him from her? Her mind was racked with uncertainty. One of her women had over-heard the two Lords in high debate. From her, Lady Sarah learned that Lord Alderson going out suddenly from the room where he had left the Earl, and calling hastily for his horses, had directed his servants to go to the Earl of Lenox, with whom, according to the orders he left with his domesticks, he proposed to stay for several days.

On hearing this, Lady Sarah gave a violent shriek. Scarce able to reach her apartment, she no sooner entered than she threw herself on a couch; and covering her face, as if she meant to hide all nature from her sight, she remained in that state of insensibility, occasioned by an excess of grief which is felt with too much pungency to be expressed. Her women, anxious to assist her, could not bring her to herself, the paleness of death had already effaced all the bloom of her complexion. They put her to bed, without her opposition or consent. She remained in that state, composed to all appearance, till nine in the evening. At that time Lidy, the youngest of her waiting women, brought her a letter. It came from Edward. That name, and the sight of his hand writing, roused her senses which were stupified by her grievous oppression of mind. Her tears began to flow, and to asswage those inward emotions which agitated her frame.

The

She opened the letter with trembling hands, and found the following contents :

Lord EDWARD's Letter to Lady ALDERSON.

' O, My dear, my dear Sally, how must your mind be afflicted! Mine is pierced with a deadly shaft. How! Separated! What! have they forced me, inveigled me, torn me from your side! What a dreadful reverie of fortune! Can I live and reflect! . . . My despair, my tears will not allow me to write . . . What have I done, wretch that I am! I have lodged regret in your bosom! I have dared . . . Ah, I hoped . . . My heart is rent. Detained here by force, narrowly watched and made a close prisoner, I cannot even come and sigh at your feet. O, my mistress, my wife, my friend! O, thou whom I adore! do not doubt thy husband's constancy, do not doubt those sentiments which attach him to thee for ever. No, nothing shall ever break asunder those dear and sacred ties which unite our hearts. Sally, you are mine, I am yours. I will be yours; I care not at what price I purchase my felicity! I will submit to all the conditions . . . But Lord Revel . . . Your father . . . I am ready to expire.'

These lines, which were penned with difficulty, and in which the eye could scarce discover several traces that had been washed away with tears, made a dreadful impression on Lady Sarah's mind. She wept bitterly, and was preparing to write, when a second letter was brought to her from Edward.

Lord EDWARD to Lady ALDERSON.

' I Am agitated by a cruel impatience. I wait your answer with trembling expectation. I dread it, yet I wish for it with eagerness. Alas, what can it inform me? That you are afflicted with a grief equal to my own; you shed tears. But, my dear Sally, do they all flow from the fountain of love? perhaps

' haps . . . O mortifying reflecting! Ah, if the least regret
 ' should mingle with your tears! If you should doubt
 ' . . . No, you will not wrong your lover by injurious
 ' suspicions. Ah, who could have foreseen. . . . Who
 ' would have said, imagined . . . What, shall to-mor-
 ' row come, and I not see you! Shall the hours roll on,
 ' and that which should have united us pass by . . .
 ' Ah, Sally! It will pass, and I shall be at a distance
 ' from you. . . . O the fatal prejudices of mankind!
 ' It is vanity then, pride, and frivolous considerations
 ' which tear me from you. What do the trivial ad-
 ' vantages of fortune, the favour of the court, the
 ' name of Salisbury, my commission, my rank, the ti-
 ' tles of my ancestors avail me! Ah, let them give me
 ' my dear Sally; her heart, her hand, are all that my
 ' ambition aspires to. Heavenly powers, grant my
 ' wishes! Unite me to her who is so dear to my affec-
 ' tions, and all my desires will be fulfilled! O my love-
 ' ly friend! send me some comfort; my mind is agi-
 ' tated by dreadful emotions. Do not despise me, do
 ' not hate me: Ah, I adore thee! Haste to tell me, and
 ' to repeat it, that you love me, and that you will ne-
 ' ver cease to love me.'

After having bathed these two letters with her tears, Lady Sarah forced herself to return an answer: she penned the following note:

Lady SARAH ALDERSON to Lord EDWARD.

' **I**gnorant as I am of the motives of your depar-
 ' ture, I do not know whether I should complain of
 ' you, or only accuse myself for the most pungent of
 ' all my misfortunes. Preserve your life; for on that
 ' my life and honour depend. I do not hate you; Ah,
 ' how should I hate you, you, whom my heart has
 ' been so long accustomed to love! Do not fear my
 ' reproaches; but bear with my excess of grief.
 ' Ah, my Lord, happy as we were yesterday, so
 ' worthy to be respected, to be pitied, to day
 ' guilty, degraded in our own eyes; have we
 ' not merited our misfortunes? There is no longer
 ' any

' any hope of union between us; I know my father
 ' too well to expect it. If he imagines himself of-
 ' fended, he has broken off irrevocably . . . Ah,
 ' how can I bear that idea, joined to the recollection
 ' . . . Unfortunate temerity! Fatal indiscretion!
 ' But what does fruitless regret avail: Farewell, I love
 ' you, I shall love while I live. Remember your promi-
 ' ses, and live to fulfill them.'

Lady Alderson passed the rest of the night in reading Edward's letters again and again, in weeping and sighing over them. In the morning she found herself extremely ill; her continual faintings made them apprehensive that she would expire every moment.

They sent away immediately to apprise my Lord of the danger his daughter was in. He returned, and found her attacked with a raging fever, of which all the symptoms were alarming. Her tears, her deep sighs indicated the oppression of her mind, and manifestly discovered the cause of her disorder. But Lord Alderson was so far from being moved by her deplorable condition, that he was enraged against her; he could not forgive her the weakness of feeling such pungent grief for the loss of Edward. He looked at her with a stern countenance, and never spoke to her but to approach her for her weakness; and instead of using mild and gentle means to compose her spirits, and to asswage those pains which he alone had occasioned, he contented himself with procuring the assistance of an art, from whence the mind never derives any comfort.

The cruelty of this behaviour aggravated Lady Sarah's distress. She saw too plainly that she had nothing to expect from such an inhuman father; and this melancholy certainty in a few days brought her to the brink of the grave.

Lord Revel not being able to obtain an absolute promise from Edward that he would never go to Lord Alderson's seat, and being apprehensive lest such a violent passion should prompt him to some rash enterprize, he caused him to be narrowly watched at Wernsteyn.

They

They concealed Lady Sarah's illness from him, but it was impossible for him to be a stranger to it long. As he had the liberty of writing and sending letters, he passed the whole day in conjuring Lady Alderson in the most affecting terms, to throw herself intirely on his fidelity, and to consent to marry him in private. The time of his departure was at hand ; he was desirous to bear the name of her husband, and to carry with him the assurance of being the object of her constant affections. He formed all those pleasing and chimerical projects, which are the offspring of love and imagination, and of which our wishes can suppose the possibility.

Young Lidy received these letters, but could not deliver them to her mistress, who was too weak to read them, and whose apartment was filled with her women, and other persons whom her illness made necessary about her. Edward's servants returned every hour without any answer, and having exhausted every kind of excuse, were at length obliged to acquaint him with Lady Sarah's melancholy situation.

The knowledge of her illness, and the dread lest it should prove fatal, joined to the extreme inquietude he felt before, plunged him into deep despair. His imagination, struck with a thousand horrid ideas, threw him into a kind of frenzy, which deprived him of his reason. It was necessary to watch his motions carefully, in order to perceive him from the effects of his own fury. He demanded his Sally, he called upon her, he wept, he sighed, he accused himself of having violated the most sacred duties towards her : He fancied that he beheld her expiring, reproaching him with her death, or inviting him to follow her. Then he gave violent shouts, and strove to escape from those who confined him ; he was determined to die, and die at Lady Sarah's feet.

Lord Revel, ever assiduous about him, and deeply affected with his condition, bore with patience and gentleness, the moving and sometimes bitter complaints which he directed to him. He tried every means to

comfort him, he sympathized with him in his affliction; and when he found him somewhat composed, he urged every argument, which he thought likely to infuse hope into his soul. But his composure was but momentary. He soon began to weep, and sigh again. The Earl had the mortification to find him relapse into a deprivation of reason, of which the consequences made him tremble. Edward was to have joined the army towards the latter end of the month, and ten days of that month were elapsed, before he discovered any symptoms of his recovery.

In the mean time, Lady Sarah's fever having abated and become remitting, she appeared, during those intervals, somewhat composed. Lady seized one of those intervals to deliver her Edward's letters. As he had written several since he thought her in an expiring condition, Lady Alderson discovered the distress of his mind, and the disorder of his reason, by the wildness of his expressions. She was moved with tenderness, and alarmed with fear; she made haste to write to him, and remove his apprehensions.

Her note, which was diligently conveyed to Wersteyn, having given Edward assurance that her precious life was not in danger, it removed the cause of his perturbation. He resigned himself to Lord Revel's Care; his reason returned. The hope of seeing his Sally again, the desire of enjoying her company, the certainty of being loved by her, all contributed to recruit his strength, and restore him to himself.

Lord Edward had but just recovered from this cruel situation, when he received orders to repair to the camp. He expected to have staid at least twelve days longer. That time he judged sufficient for the execution of his most favourite scheme. He was now obliged to postpone it till his return. What a new source of affliction to pierce his heart! To go away, to remove at a distance from his Sally, from Sally sick, languishing and afflicted! To leave her in the power of an absolute, capricious and imperious father. Might not he force her to receive the addresses of some other; might not

he

she engage her in spite of her inclinations? Would she dare to oppose his will, which she had been always accustomed to respect? Then to depart without seeing her, without reading in her eyes that he still was dear to her, without hearing her pronounce the flattering assurance of her being his for ever, and of preserving her affection and fidelity to him; these reflections gave Edward ineffable inquietude. The day before his departure, he sent her his picture, accompanied with the following letter.

Lord EDWARD's Letter to Lady ALDERSON.

' I Am going, my dear Sally ; alas, I am going. With what regret do I tear myself from the place of your residence ! What an immense space will shortly divide us, and at what a time does my cruel duty force me to withdraw from you ! May my image ever be present in your mind ; this picture will constantly present to you the features of your lover, your husband, the man who loves you, who respects you, and whose only hope of felicity is from you. O Lady Sarah, be careful of yourself ; preserve for my sake, the lovely companion of my future days. The attention which you pay to your own welfare will be the strongest proof of your kindness towards the wretch who adores you.

' I dare flatter myself that you love me ; I rely on your promises, and nevertheless I depart with inexpressible uneasiness. In these melancholy moments, I fancy that I am deprived of all my hopes. Ah, if your father should force you from me ; if any other should obtain you from him ; if I should never behold you more ! Give some comfort to a mind alarmed and dismayed ; promise me, swear to me that you will ever love me, that you will resist every effort which may be used to tear you from your unfortunate lover. Condescend, my dear Sally, condescend to bind yourself by fresh protestations. I have nothing to apprehend from your inconstancy ; I only dread that submission, that respect you owe a father. . . .

‘ Ah, let me at least depart with the pleasing certainty
 ‘ of finding you free at my return ! But can you now
 ‘ be called free ? Is not your faith pledged to me ?
 ‘ All my hopes are in your fortitude of mind, in the
 ‘ change which time produces, and in Lord Revel’s
 ‘ friendship. . . . Alas, I hope, and yet I am ready to
 ‘ expire with grief on the thoughts of quitting you. O
 ‘ Sally ! O my affectionate friend ! Do I leave you then,
 ‘ and without seeing you ! Without being able to come
 ‘ near you ; for which I have made every effort in vain.
 ‘ Your letters now will be my only pleasure, my only
 ‘ comfort ; one line from you will be all the joy I expect.
 ‘ Do not forget me. . . . Ah, if you could read my heart,
 ‘ if you could feel. . . . Adieu. This paper, bedewed
 ‘ with my tears, will tell you more than I can speak.
 ‘ Adieu, adieu, my dear, my lovely Sally ; love me, af-
 ‘ sure me that you do, and repeat it to me from day to
 ‘ day.’

Lady Alderson being resolved to follow Edward’s fortune, was likewise determined to resist her father’s will. He impatiently waited her recovery, in order to dispose of her. He swore that he would disinherit her if she insisted on her former engagements in opposition to his present commands ; but the reparation which she owed to her own honour, far outweighed every trifling consideration which might obstruct her scheme of marrying Edward. His inquietude affected her, without offending her ; and being desirous to calm his perturbation of mind, she returned him the following answer.

Lady ALDERSON to Lord EDWARD.

‘ **I**S it necessary to give you a re-assurance of my af-
 ‘ fection, by solemn protestations ? Ah, my dear Ed-
 ‘ ward, the perfidious do not scruple oaths. Are you at
 ‘ liberty to entertain a doubt ? How is it possible for
 ‘ me to renounce one who has acquired such ascendancy
 ‘ over my affections, and has proved himself so worthy
 ‘ of my attachment ? Edward, my dear Edward, we
 ‘ have

' have ventured to seal our fate ; let us dare to make it
 ' as happy as we may, by mutually resigning ourselves
 ' with that confidence, with which each of us may
 ' justly inspire the other. The fortune, of which my
 ' father threatens loudly to deprive me, if I bestow my-
 ' self on you, is in my estimation a trivial sacrifice :
 ' With what joy shall I give up all such interested views,
 ' in order to prove my affection for you. On quitting
 ' the altar, where I shall have received the pledge of
 ' your fidelity, an humble retreat where I may behold
 ' my Edward, where I may look securely and steadfastly
 ' upon him, will be more agreeable and cheerful to my
 ' sight, than this magnificent abode, where I do not
 ' see him, and where I am certain not to see him. Alas !
 ' we often lamented Lord Revel's tedious indisposition.
 ' Good God ! that that time would but return. We
 ' complained, and yet we were together. My weak
 ' condition will not allow me to write any more ; do not
 ' torment yourself ; my fever decreases ; its returns are
 ' of short duration : They give me assurance of a speedy
 ' recovery. Go, my dear friend, go, since your duty
 ' calls you. My affection will count every moment of
 ' your absence ; my good wishes will attend you where-
 ' ever you go, and every day will furnish you with some
 ' proofs of my recollection and tenderness. Adieu.'

Edward could not find himself on the point of leaving Lord Revel, without testifying the strongest marks of tenderness. His caresses made an impression on a mind of such sensibility as the Earl's. He talked with him concerning the conduct he should observe in the camp : He magnified the honours which awaited him at the end of the campaign, his re-establishment at court being fixed beyond doubt. Edward, at that instant, being little flattered by the prospect of royal favour, but strongly affected by the marks of Lord Revel's friendship, could not forbear shedding tears ; and embracing that generous friend : O my father, said he, must your kindness be ineffectual ? Ever since I have drawn breath, you have vouchsafed to interest yourself

in my welfare ; I am indebted to you for every thing. Shall I dare to confess the truth ? So many singular favours cannot yet make me happy. Excuse my giving utterance to sentiments which may probably make me appear ungrateful. Ah, I am by no means so, nor ever shall be. But having lost the hope of living for Lady Sarah, of obtaining Lady Sarah's hand, I have lost that which gives a relish to every other blessing. What are grandeur, riches, and empty titles ? Greedy ambition is eager in pursuit of them, pride enjoys them, and the heart is disgusted with them. Can the empire of the whole universe equal one of those delicate and refined pleasures which I regret !

But, replied the Earl, would you have accepted Lady Alderson's hand, at the scandalous price at which it was offered ? Would you have trampled on your father's ashes, and have treated all your ancestors with contempt ? Would you have deserted your country, which calls for your assistance ? I know not what I could do, said Edward, but I know that I cannot live without Lady Sarah. I entertain such a sincere esteem for Lady Alderson, continued Lord Revel, that I have laboured to obtain her for you. My endeavours have not succeeded ; but I have employed a friend to intercede with her father, without seeming to interest himself in the affair : Lord Carlington has proposed accommodations : I was disposed to make great concessions to rescue you from the danger in which I saw you, and to gain you a wife, who were worthy of you : But neither the condition you were in, though described in the most moving terms, nor the dangerous state in which he beheld his daughter, nor the offer of making your first son by Lady Sarah to bear his name, nothing was capable of reducing his haughty spirit to compliance. He even intimated that it would now be in vain for us to submit to the conditions he proposed before ; never, with his consent, shall his daughter be your's.

Never be mine ! said Edward. What if she was to renounce every thing, to bestow herself on the man she loves ; if she was to sacrifice to her affection the estate

which

which ought to be her inheritance ; if her heart, as tender and affectionate as mine, should place all her felicity in her constancy to me ; if I should be dearer to her than her worldly fortune ; if she should consent to pledge her faith, if . . . I understand you, said the Earl interrupting him, and will explain myself without reserve : Rest assured, my dear Edward, that your happiness is the first object of my wishes : I will never attempt to procure it at the expence of honour ; but do not fear that I will ever thwart your inclinations ; when they induce you to form such engagements as will not tarnish your glory. If Lady Alderton preserves her affection towards you, if distance does not extinguish the tender passion with which your hearts are mutually inspired, I shall with pleasure behold an union so fondly and ardently desired. By making a sacrifice of her fortune, Lady Sarah will appear to me still more worthy of your friendship and attachment.

Ah, I only waited for that kind consent, said Edward ; in this instance, my Lord, you fill the measure of your favours : This last kindness enhances the value of those I have already received from your hands. O my much respected father ! You have diffused peace and comfort round my mind. The secret I kept from you with regard to my resolutions, was a weight upon my spirits. I now depart contented, and will endeavour to merit the appellation of your son by my future conduct.

After having given vent to the transports of his gratitude, and embraced his generous protector a thousand times, he quitted him in order to write to Lady Alderton, and acquaint her with Lord Revel's favourable disposition. He then set out with Sir Humphrey, and two Valet de Chambres, his equipage having been sent away some time before. Sir Humphrey was a young gentleman whose fortune was not equal to his birth. Lord Revel had formed an attachment between him and Edward from their infancy ; he had accompanied him in his travels. Edward loved him, made him his confidant ; and the present state of his mind made the socie-

ty of a friend, to whom he could unbosom himself without reserve, more than commonly dear to him.

After two months illness, Lady Alderson found her fever gone off; but she was so reduced, that her weakness obliged her to keep her room for a long time. Her father treated her with great indifference. Her sickness convinced him how dearly she loved Edward; he was piqued to find that he could not banish an affection from his daughter's mind, to which his own commands had given birth, and which, he imagined, ought to be suppressed the moment it became disagreeable to him. He passed whole weeks without seeing her, and, when he honoured her with a visit, it was only to reproach her with acrimony for the sentiments she entertained, and the dejection into which they cast her.

Nevertheless the breaking off of this match served to revive the hopes of every one who had any pretensions to her. The Earl of Lenox finding Lord Alderson obstinately determined not to resume his former intentions, made him an offer of his son, upon the same conditions he had proposed to Lord Revel. The pleasure of giving Edward uneasiness made this proposition agreeable to Lord Alderson; he passed his word, and fixed his daughter's perfect recovery as the time when the union was to take place. In the mean time he admitted the visits of her new intended husband, and gave her intimation through the means of his chaplain, that she must prepare herself to receive the addresses of Sir Arthur Lenox.

This command was a fresh cause of affliction to Lady Sarah. Her scheme was to pass the time of Edward's absence at her father's seat. The importunities of young Lenox would probably make her abide there troublesome, would oblige her to precipitate her flight, and put her under difficulties to procure a convenient retreat. In grateful consideration of Lord Revel's kindness, of the consent which he gave to her future nuptials with Edward, she would not expose him to any disagreeable incidents, by putting herself openly under his protection. She regretted that it was not in her power

to

to give her hand to her lover before his departure. He constantly engrossed her attention, she read the letters she received from him every minute, she wrote to him every day, and a thousand new inquietudes, added to her other distresses, made her pass many melancholy moments. Nevertheless the reiterated proofs she received of Edward's tenderness, of his lively and ardent affection, which time seemed to animate and heighten, often served to asswage her sorrows; these reflections sometimes made her hope for more happy days hereafter; and devoting herself entirely to love, to the pleasure of inspiring it, to the delight of feeling it reciprocally, to the idea that she should one time make Edward happy, she found her bosom warmed with some rays of hope that she should yet be happy herself.

Near four months had elapsed since Edward's departure, when Lady Alderson found herself well enough to venture out of her apartment. She went down with Lidy to take a turn in the gardens. Her steps accidentally led her towards the grove where her indiscreet affection had bewildered her reason. She started when she beheld it, and casting down her eyes, which were gushing with tears, she sighed and reflected how greatly her condition was altered since the fatal day on which she entered there with Edward. Struck at the sight of this spot, she withdrew from it, and continued her walk in a melancholy mood. Every walk, every turning in that garden, called the most interesting recollections to her mind. She continued her walk till the close of the evening, and finding herself fatigued, she shaped her course towards her apartment with slow measured steps.

Whether the exercise she had used brought nature to a crisis, or whether nature herself destined that instant to give the first motion to a creature whose existence was till then unknown; Lady Sarah felt an uncommon agitation within her. She did not immediately discover the cause, but collecting several circumstances which were attributed to her illness, and were sufficient to confirm the suspicion she began to entertain, she at

ength became sensible of a misfortune, of which till then she had not even formed an idea. A sentiment compounded of fear, shame and perturbation, shocked and overwhelmed her, yet at the same time made her interest herself warmly in behalf of the object who occasioned this new sensation. Attached to Edward more firmly than ever, by the discovery of her condition, she boldly formed a resolution to consider him as the only one in the universe on whom she had any dependence. The duties which weighed against this resolution gave place to the most pressing and indispensable obligations; therefore from that moment she got every thing ready to leave the seat at Alderson.

Being under a necessity of disclosing her situation to one of her women, Lidy's youth and sincere attachment won her confidence. This young girl had a sister who was settled in London. She wrote to her, by the direction of her mistress, and desired her to hire a handsome and convenient apartment in a retired part of the town, in the name of Mrs. Hervey, a young lady lately married, whose husband was in the army, and whose restless affection led her to the capital, that she might be within reach of having daily intelligence from him.

This commission being punctually executed, Lidy by little and little got together whatever Lady Alderson proposed to take. She deposited every thing with a farmer's wife on whom she could depend; there she filled her coffers, and sent them to London according to her sister's directions. By means of that same farmer's wife, she secured a chaise, with two horses and a postillion, to carry them the first post. Lady Albury, a relation of Lord Alderson's, had been there for three months upon a visit; she was going away, and proposed to cross the sea to Montpelier, where she hoped to find relief against a languishing disorder, which had brought her into a decline. Lady Sarah fixed for her departure the same morning that Lady Albury was to set out, that it might be thought her intention was only to accompany her; and that her father, if he should go in pursuit of her, might be puzzled which road to take.

On

On the day preceding that which proved so fatal to the two lovers hopes, Lord Alderson had made his daughter a present of a rich casket, containing her mother's jewels, a number of golden trinkets, and two thousand guineas, half of which she was to distribute the next day after her nuptials. Lidy was preparing to pack up these valuable effects, when her mistress stopped her. It does not become one, said she to her, who is so unhappy as to be obliged to fly from her father's house, to consider those presents as her property, which were certainly never given with a view to assist her in taking such an unbecoming step. None of these things belong to me, and I have no right over these effects, which I have deservedly forfeited. These sentiments confounded Lidy ; she had already remitted the money to London, but was afraid to confess it. Lady Alderson collected what she had saved out of the yearly income allowed her for her maintenance and pocket money. She made up about five hundred pounds sterling, and about three times that sum in jewels which she wore in common. This was all which she could persuade herself to take from a house where she left the hope of an immense fortune.

When she was ready to depart, the reflection that she might probably never behold her father again, gave her extreme quietude. She had never, for her part, experienced that tender indulgence, and those affectionate caresses, which change the respect that education imposes, and habit maintains, into a lively and grateful friendship, into a settled partiality ; a sentiment which nature does not always inspire. The kindness of our parents fosters it in our bosoms, and daily adds to the vigour of its growth. Lord Alderson's haughty disposition would not allow him to give way to emotions which he considered as marks of weakness, and of which he had never experienced the delights.

Lady Sarah wrote to him with a trembling hand, in the most submissive and tender terms ; she implored his pity for an unfortunate and guilty daughter, who, finding it impossible to live any longer under his sight, already

ready suffered the punishment of her irreparable offence. She shuddered at the indignation which her precipitate flight must excite in the mind of an enraged father. Instead of attempting to justify a proceeding, too rash to be defended, she humbly begged his forgiveness, and lamented the cruel necessity which obliged her to withdraw from an authority which she respected, even at that instant, when by her conduct she seemed to defy it. She left this letter on her toilet, quitted the house before daylight, and repaired to the farm, where the chaise waited for her. After having liberally rewarded the farmer's wife, she set out with Lidy, and arrived in London next day in the evening.

Lady Sarah's elopement, and the receipt of the letter she left behind her, threw Lord Alderson into an amazement, from which he did not recover till rage took place of astonishment. Finding that his daughter had left the casket behind her, this seemed to him a proof that she had secured an asylum, where she was under no apprehensions of want. He imagined that she had withdrawn to Westerney, or to some friend of Lord Revel's. In the transport of his first emotion, he wrote to that nobleman with all the haughtiness and acrimony which were natural to him. He did not ask any intelligence concerning his daughter, whom he considered as unworthy to belong to him; he would not even do her the honour of endeavouring to rescue her from the consequences of her own indiscretion; he only desired Lord Revel to assure her, that he hated, despised, and abandoned her for ever. I shall never, said he, in the conclusion of that horrid epistle, recollect that I was her father, but to pronounce upon her that execration which awaits an ungrateful and rebellious child. I am now going to destroy her expectations for ever, and I pray heaven to extend this disherison even to her celestial portion.

Lord Revel was till then a stranger to Lady Sarah's elopement, and was extremely surprized to learn it by that means. He sent a gentleman to Lord Alderson's to assure him that, since the day they parted, he had maintained

maintained no correspondence with Lady Alderson, and that he was, in no degree, instrumental in the uneasiness she occasioned him. Lord Alderson refused to see any one who came from the Earl ; he gave out in the house, that Lady Albury had taken his daughter to France without his leave ; he complained loudly of that Lady, from whom he pretended to have received a letter ; in the end however, affecting to be more pacified, he declared that if the journey perfectly restored his daughter to her health, as her relation expected, he would readily forgive them both for having undertaken it against his will. A few days after he spread a report that Lady Sarah was taken dangerously ill at Calais. He set out post, with only one servant, in order, as he pretended, to fly to her relief ; he remained absent a month : That time expired, he returned to Alderson, affecting to be most immoderately grieved on account of his daughter's death, whose coffin followed him. He made a very pompous funeral, and put himself with his whole family into deep mourning. Lady Sarah was tenderly bewailed, and long regretted. Lord Revel beheld this farce with indifference, as considering it both mean and ridiculous. He was not eager to undeceive the county ; this was a duty he reserved for Edward. Lady Albury, who had been forewarned by Lord Alderson, kept the secret ; and thus no one doubted of Lady Sarah's death.

She no sooner reached London, than she wrote to Edward ; he knew that she was to go thither, but he was a stranger to the reason which obliged her to anticipate the time. This was what she wanted to communicate ; but the perplexity she was under how to express herself on so delicate a subject, made her from time to time postpone this interesting intelligence. Her time, during her retreat, was employed much in the same way as at Alderson ; Edward, ever present to her imagination, filled up every space, and made her lose the recollection of those melancholy ideas she entertained at Alderson.

Love is the only passion, which is capable of engrossing the mind altogether. This sovereign mistress of the soul

soul insensibly banishes every idea which does not relate to itself. When we are in love, we forget that there are any other objects, besides that on which our affection is placed; the vast extent of the universe seems to shrink in our sight, and we only behold that space which includes our desires.

An Italian painter was at that time in high repute at London, and portrait painting was his peculiar excellence. Lady Sarah had her picture drawn by him. Her likeness is so strongly taken in this picture, that you yourself, Madam, knew it at first sight. She applied herself with unwearied assiduity to copy it in miniature, and when it was finished she sent it to Edward. She then amused herself with writing a journal of those occurrences, which most nearly engaged her affections; it opened with the first day on which she beheld her Edward; she here expressed her sentiments with that amiable simplicity which denotes a mind of sensibility, and a character of integrity. . Perhaps in composing this journal, she had a design of making a comparison between different periods of her life, and of awakening Edward's recollection, if ever his ardour should abate, by reminding him how much she had sacrificed to her tenderness for him, and what a recompence he was bound to return to such excess of love. It is from this manuscript that I draw the particulars I now relate to you; and Lidy has often repeated to me the circumstances of the last distress which befell the unfortunate Lady Sarah, after the time where the manuscript breaks off.

She lodged with the widow of a subaltern officer, whose name was Mrs. Larkin; and who was of an agreeable disposition, sprightly, and not unaccustomed to genteel life. Lady Alderson passed in the family for the wife of a plain gentleman of the county of Kent. Mrs. Larkin, struck with that air of dignity which distinguished her person, and was conspicuous in the most trifling action, astonished likewise at her extreme reserve, and considering also as marks of superior merit, the little desire she expressed of enjoying the amusements of

of the town, and the voluntary solitude which a lady so young, so beautiful, so qualified to make a figure in the world, imposed upon herself, she soon discovered a tender and respectful attachment to her, and endeavoured to anticipate her wishes. Lady Sarah was not insensible of the attention paid to her ; as her company was not disagreeable, Mrs. Larkin used to pass a great part of the day with her.

More than six months had escaped since Edward's absence ; a long siege had retarded the operations of the campaign. The enamoured young Lord wrote to Lady Sarah, on the eve of a battle which was to put an end to it, and restore him to the object of his affections. His impatience increased Lady Alderson's. Restless and uneasy, she preferred her fervent prayers to heaven for the preservation of a life so dear to her. On receiving no intelligence by the post, she abandoned herself to the most horrid apprehensions. Her repose was insensibly disturbed, and she passed her nights in wishing, yet dreading the news of to-morrow.

She received two letters at once from Edward, which were sufficient to dissipate her fears. He assured her that the armies were going to separate without coming to action ; he conjured her to banish those melancholy ideas which preyed upon her mind. He proposed, and flattered himself with the hope of seeing her before the end of the month. All his expressions discovered an unusual gaiety. They deceived Lady Sarah, and she entertained the most agreeable expectations. The next day the post missed without giving her any extraordinary alarm. She imagined that Edward was on his way home, and intended to surprize her.

Mrs. Larkin had a nephew in the same army, of whom she was extremely fond. As she was going to visit Lady Sarah in the evening, she received by an express dispatched to Prince Thomas, a letter from her nephew. She opened it, read it, and gave a violent shriek. Lady Alderson ran to her, and asked the reason of her cries. The poor woman being in a consternation, and forgetting how deeply the young lady might

might be interested in the fatal news, gave her the letter from her nephew. The contents were in few words as follows :

' We have just now given battle and lost it. I am wounded, but slightly : We are obliged to fly ; I write to you at the distance of six leagues from the fatal field, where we have left ten thousand of our men. I saw Lord Orsel, my patron and friend, drop. I wish I had died yesterday : I can add no more. I am told that we are going to march in order to retreat farther.' Lady Sarah had scarce done reading, but she dropped, senseless with fear, into the arms of Mrs. Larkin, uttering in a low tone : O Edward, O my dear Edward ! They brought her to herself with water and salts, but frightened, trembling and distracted, she could only express herself by giving vent to exclamations. Lifting up her streaming eyes to heaven, Great God ! All-powerful God ! said she, may I yet ? may I yet implore thee ?

She waited next day with a degree of impatience and agitation, which did not leave her a moment's quiet. No express arrived. It was in vain they assured her that the wind was contrary. This fatal silence seemed the messenger of death. He is gone, said she to Lidy, he is gone ; I have lost him for ever.

She passed several days in this horrid state of uncertainty. Every attention which was paid to the unfortunate Lady Sarah, gave her such violent perturbation, that they scarce ever dared to interrupt the solitude she was desirous of indulging. The only symptoms of existence she discovered, were the grievous agitations she expressed from the dread, lest her desperate apprehensions should receive confirmation. When alone in her closet, she prostrated herself before the Supreme Being with uplifted hands ; and by her cries and lamentations implored the life of Edward. Let him live, 'tis all I ask, said she, with earnest supplication ; may he live, though I lose him ; may his days be prolonged, though not for me ! Let me bewail his absence, his indifference, his hatred, even his disdain ! But never, never let

let me lament his death. Abandoned, degraded, dishonoured, deprived of every thing, without friends, without refuge ; I will expiate his failing and my own. O thou God of vengeance, thou art likewise a God of mercy. Ah, strike at me alone : Vouchsafe to grant his life to the prayers I offer, to the bitter tears I shed before thee ! I shall die in peace, if, in my last moments, I am assured that thy arm has preserved him, that he still lives, and is happy ! Alas ! The object of so many tears, and of such tender and disinterested affection, was then no more. Having received three mortal wounds, been thrown down, trodden under the horses feet, besmeared with blood and dust, Edward, confounded among a heap of slain, had not yet been even discovered. At first they thought he had been taken prisoner, then concluded him among the killed. Sir Humphrey, who was taken prisoner by the side of his expiring friend, whom he was endeavouring to lift up, was the only one who could give any intelligence with regard to his fate ; but being dangerously wounded himself, he remained several days without being in a condition to speak or write.

Lady Sarah sent an express to Lord Revel. She imagined him acquainted with Edward's fate, and intreated him to give her intelligence. The Earl at the same time received an express with a letter from Sir Humphrey ; the confirmation of Edward's death overwhelmed him with grief, and Lady Sarah's expressions added to its bitterness. Her youth, her engaging qualities, her tenderness, her misfortune, all strongly interested a mind of such sensibility as Lord Revel's. She had been so dear to Edward's affections, that from that moment he regarded her as a precious relict of the friend he lamented, and such were the sentiments of his generous and delicate mind, that he even thought he might still oblige Edward by assailing the object of his tenderest affections. He was just recovered from a fit of illness occasioned by grief and inquietude ; nevertheless he wrote to Lady Alderson : " We have lost, Madam, said he, to her, the friend whom we both equally loved ; let us unite

unite our mutual regrets : Allow me to adopt you as my daughter, to treat you with the affection of a parent, and of a husband ; direct my endeavours, and dispose of every thing that belongs to me ; I will learn from yourself, what are your present intentions : I shall repair to London in eight days, ready to execute them ; there I will receive your commands ; I have now no other wish, Madam, than that of being serviceable to you."

Such a positive assurance of Edward's death, threw the distressed Lady Sarah into a fit of despair. No consideration whatever could restrain her emotions ; she gave herself up to the deepest sorrow and most moving lamentations. Such violent agonies soon impaired her strength ; she remained two hours quite senseless, and was only recalled to life by sharp and redoubled pangs of grief. So much inquietude and agitation anticipated the pains of labour. I was born, and my birth was an addition to her torments ; my infant cries were intermixed with her deep lamentations ; she heard them, and they pierced her to the very soul. O, unhappy infant, said she, thou wilt never call on the dear name of father.

From that moment, she gradually declined. She preserved a mournful silence, and never spoke, but to express her deep affliction : Every thing disgusted her ; she rejected, with strong repugnance, the nourishment that was offered her. Her mind averse from every kind of consolation made every mark of aspidity troublesome to her : She made signs with her hand for her attendants to withdraw, and when the women who waited on her left her alone, they heard her give a free vent to her tears, and repeat the name of Edward a thousand times over.. He is no more then, said she, he is dead ! Ah, God, he is dead ! He hears me not, he never will hear me ! He is gone, gone for ever. Edward will never more appear to these eyes ; his soul is returned to its heavenly abode. Ah, that at least, said she, that at least I could but fix my melancholy Eves upon thy corpse ! Dear and worthy Edward ! Alas ! Thou hast not even a grave which I can sprinkle with my tears,

and

and where I might hope that our ashes at least may be united.

Lady Alderson's tender constitution could not long resist such violent grief; her blood was inflamed, a raging fever soon threw her into the utmost danger; her life was despaired of; when Lord Revel came to pay her a visit. This nobleman was most sensibly affected by Lady Alderson's condition. As he drew near to her, he turned his face aside, for fear of discovering his emotions to her. His presence threw Lady Sarah into violent agitation; she took notice of the motion he made to conceal the marks of his sensibility; and stretching forth her arms; Ah, my Lord, said she, do not hide your pity from me; let me behold the friend, the father of Edward, bewail with tears the melancholy fate which tears him from us! He is then no more! We have lost him for ever! Ah, my Lord, for ever! The torrent of her tears, stopping her voice, she could add no more.

After a few minutes mournful silence, Edward, Madam, said the Earl, lives no more but in our affections; heaven would not allow me to see the son of my dear friend live in felicity. My regard for the unfortunate youth did not end with his life. I will give constant proofs of it, Madam, by my services to you. Condescend, Madam, to consider me as a Man, whose only desire is that of obliging you. He then, in the strongest terms, renewed the offers which he had made to her in his letter.

But who could now be of use to Lady Sarah. What idea of happiness could sooth a mind overwhelmed with the weight of grief, whose lively and passionate affections had lost their object, without losing any thing of their force. Ah, of what value were fortune, pleasure, grandeur, nay the world itself, when the whole universe could not restore her Edward.

She called for her escrutore, from whence she took out the journal which she had begun; and presenting it to Lord Revel; I have a favour, said she, my Lord, to ask of you. But as I dare not entertain you with the only subject which engrosses me at present, I beg

you

you to read these sheets with attention. My extreme ~~behind~~
weakness, and other reasons which you will readily ~~co~~ experience,
will not allow me to relate my melancholy story heart,
When you are acquainted with it, if your generous compassion moves you, if you will vouchsafe to extend a
it to the object of my only inquietude, I shall sink into ~~daugh~~
the grave freed from a heavy load, of which the present
sure aggravates all my other torments.

The Earl received the manuscript she gave him ~~May~~ ^{of my}
Shocked at the condition in which he left her he withdrew, after having sworn to discharge the duties of a
father and a friend towards her.

When he got home, he read Lady Sarah's manuscript with great eagerness. Having gone through it, he recalled to mind some expressions which escaped from Edward during his illness. They raised some suspicions in his mind at the time, but he entertained such a respect for Lady Alderson, that he thought no more of them. Every thing which Edward had said, appeared to him the effect of a disordered understanding, whose ideas wandered towards a thousand objects. Certain of that, which he could not presume to imagine before, he lamented, he sympathized in Lady Sarah's grief, and was most deeply affected when he thought of the little innocent, who was the fruit of such unhappy love. He gave way to sentiments of compassion and tenderness, when he received a message that Lady Alderson desired him to return immediately.

The presence of a person so attached to Edward, and whom Edward was so fond of, had occasioned a dreadful revolution in her. After a long fainting fit, she came somewhat to herself, but so exceedingly debilitated, that the physicians who tried in vain to restore her, pronounced her to be near her end.

She called for Lord Revel incessantly. When she was told that he was there, she took some strengthening drops, and collecting all her spirits, My Lord, said she, you are acquainted with my failing; I have suffered cruelly for it, and my last moments are so grievous, that I dare hope forgiveness from heaven. I am dying, and I leave behind

rem behind me a daughter whose father you loved : May she
 con experience your kindness. This is the only wish of a
 ston heart, whose warmth is nearly extinguished. Doomed
 erou to dishonour, even before she was born ! Shame, misery,
 xten and a scandalous title, is all the inheritance of Edward's
 int daughter. Her unfortunate mother can do nothing for
 prefer her. Your protection, my Lord, is the only blessing
 which heaven allows me to hope for in her favour.
 him May heaven, which abandoned me to the extravagance
 with of my affection, vouchsafe to look with an eye of kind-
 ness on this unhappy orphan ; and may she never know
 sorrow equal to that which puts an end to my days. If
 crip she lives, acquaint her with the authors of her being :
 re Let her drop some tears at her father's death, may his
 Ed. memory be dear and respectable to her, and may her
 ns in mother's serve her as a melancholy and useful lesson to
 spect avoid her failings. Here her weakness and her tears
 em. obliged her to stop.

him Lord Revel, deeply affected, thanked Lady Sarah for
 ideas the confidence with which she honoured him ; he pro-
 hat, mised her, he swore to promote the happiness of the
 ja- infant who was already dear to his affections ; at these
 was words, she rang the bell. Lidy, according to the or-
 no- ders she had received, brought me up and presented me
 He to his Lordship. He took me in his arms, and pressing
 efs, me to his bosom, with weeping eyes, he repeated the
 red promises he had lately made. My mother, bedewing
 ard, my face with her tears, cried : O my daughter ! May
 l a all the powers of heaven protect thee ! In lieu of gran-
 fit, deur, which should have been thy lot, may'st thou en-
 bbi- joy a calm and virtuous mind. She made a sign to Lidy
 ore to take me away, and addressing herself to Lord Revel,
 vas after having again recommended me to his care, and
 ps, settled what she would have given to Lidy : I have
 ou written to Lord Alderson, said she, in a weak tone ; I
 lly wish that you would close the letter : I would have it
 are sent to him the moment that I am no more. His just
 nd indignation will perhaps cease when I am gone : I do
 not flatter myself to move him on behalf of my daugh-
 ter. Nevertheless I thought it my duty to the infantry

try an expedient from whence I expect little success. It is you, my Lord, it is you alone who comfort me with regard to her future fate. She then gave him the keys of every thing that belonged to her. She squeezed the Earl by the hand, and bid him farewell; then finding herself worse, she took a ribbon from her neck, on which hung Edward's picture: She beheld it steadfastly for a long time, and said in a low voice, with accents broken by her sighs: O thou image of the most amiable of men, thou lovely image, once the delight of my eyes, the object of all my pleasures, though now become the source of my deep affliction, I will never lose sight of thee, till I cease to live. She put it to her lips, and kissed it eagerly; she seemed to have collected all her strength for this last act of tenderness; she never spoke more, her eyes closed, and she expired without the least motion, without even withdrawing the hand which pressed Edward's picture to her lips.

How often have my lips endeavoured there to find the traces of her tears. O Lady Sarah! O my mother! You wished that the memory of Edward might be dear and respectable to me; you durst not require me to entertain respect for you, but the instant that Lady Alderson's memory ceases to be dear and respectable to me, may I perish miserably, and be despised for ever! . . .

Pardon, madam, ah! pardon a daughter's feelings, the tedious relation of these melancholy events would have probably affected the too great sensibility of your nature. Hurried on by a powerful impulse, I could not pass slightly over a subject which interested me so nearly. Alas! I have no other than melancholy subjects to communicate. The sentiment of grief is grown habitual to my mind; though a lively and tender affection seemed likely to have excited more agreeable emotions. Doomed by the singularity of my fate to experience trouble, and determined never to court felicity by endeavouring to banish these reflections, I have at least the satisfaction of applauding the sacrifice I make.

Lord Revel's first attention, after Lady Sarah's death, was to search for the letter which was to be sent to her father.

father. He found it under a cover unsealed. It was penned with such an exquisite sense of sorrow, her expressions were so moving, she prayed so ardently for the unfortunate infant, destitute of all support by the loss of its parents, that notwithstanding his knowledge of Lord Alderson's extreme inflexibility, the Earl hoped that he would be touched with the suppliant and affecting address of a daughter, whose untimely and unhappy end might excite his pity, and banish his resentment.

He closed the letter, and sealed it with Lady Sarah's arms ; and being determined to have no farther correspondence with a man he despised, he dictated a letter to Lidy. After a circumstantial account of the death of her mistress, she required his directions with regard to her burial, and the manner in which she was to dispose of me. They sent an express to Alderon. Nothing could equal Lord Alderson's rage, when he beheld his daughter's hand writing. He tore the letter without opening of it ; and knowing from what quarter the other came, he threw it away with disdain, commanding the messenger, in a menacing tone, to take it back, and go away directly.

Lord Revel, being made acquainted with this violent behaviour, judged that it would be to no purpose to make any farther attempts ; he therefore solely applied himself to fulfil my mother's last request, and did not persist in endeavouring to make Lord Alderson acquainted with his daughter's fate. Six days after her death, Lady Alderson was removed without pomp to Rochester, and interred in a vault belonging to the Revel family. My Lord, with Mrs. Larkin, assisted at my baptism, I was christened by the name of Jenny, the daughter of Edward of Salisbury and Sarah Alderson. I was sent to Essex to be nursed. Mrs. Larkin, and all who had in any shape served or assisted my mother, received marks of his Lordship's generosity. Lidy remained with me, and preserved the advantages of her former condition in my service ; she tied the little portrait of my father round my neck. My mother's picture, which perfectly resembled her, stood facing my cradle. Lidy was

was ordered to teach me to regard it with tender and respectful consideration, so soon as my eyes were capable of distinguishing objects. My mother's jewels were reserved to be given to me at a proper time ; the rest of her effects were sold, and Lord Revel placed what remained in the bank at London. The interest every year increasing the capital, produced in time a sum sufficient to have placed me above want, if chance had not cruelly disposed of every thing which was allotted to me.

When I entered into my sixth year, my Lord placed me at a boarding school near Oxford. I entered there under the name of Miss Jenny Glanville, a young lady of fashion, whose parents, detained at Jamaica in the King's service, were desirous of having their daughter educated in England. Lord Revel's frequent visits, the friendship with which he honoured me, and the rich apparel which he liked to see me wear, gave everyone a high opinion of my fortune. It was unlikely that they should entertain any suspicion with regard to the parentage of a child entrusted to his care.

I there received an education fit for the daughter of the first nobility. My mind being disposed to reflection, and having so much pride as to make me dread the most gentle reprimand, together with a strong desire of rendering myself agreeable, I was naturally inclined to make the best advantage of the instructions which were assiduously given me. I readily learnt all the accomplishments necessary for a woman born to be rich, and make a figure in the world ; but they never taught me those solid and useful principles, which enable us to enjoy the goods of fortune with moderation, and assist us to support the loss of them with fortitude ; principles which are highly necessary, to maintain a proper dignity throughout the various accidents of life. It is from these principles alone, that we are capable of enduring grievous hardships without being completely miserable. We might avoid many troubles, if we were taught betimes, to blush at nothing but the reproaches of our own consciences.

Lord

Lord Revel had some very distant relations, who were extremely attentive to his conduct. His extravagant fondness for the Duke of Salisbury's son, destroying their greedy expectations, had made them, for a long time since, avoid his house. Lord Edward's death brought them back again. They paid court to him; and the assiduity with which they studied to please him soon made an impression upon him. He was advanced to that period of life, when we find attention and complaisance becomes necessary to us; a necessity which renders them agreeable, and makes us blind to the motives from whence they spring.

Lord Revel by degrees began to lose his liberty. He found himself surrounded by officious friends, who watched his motions, and had an eye upon all his actions; I soon became the object of their curiosity. They talked to him concerning his ward, they desired to see me, and be acquainted with me. But he kept every circumstance which concerned me in profound secrecy. The better to conceal his kindness towards me, he erased out of his will the clause where I was mentioned, for fear lest too large a legacy should draw powerful adversaries upon me, and expose his will to be litigated. His generous anxiety likewise made him apprehensive lest death or debility of mind should frustrate his intentions, before he had settled my condition, and this made him solicitous to take proper measures for my security.

Sir Humphrey, who was constantly attached to him, possessed his confidence, and by his zeal and integrity deserved it. Lord Revel disclosed his mind to him on the subject of this generous inquietude, and took what he judged the most proper method to remove it. He deposited with Sir Humphrey a letter-case, containing fifteen thousand pounds sterling in bank bills, of which he made me a present, together with more than four thousand pounds which were the produce of my mother's pittance. In this last sum was included a small annuity settled on Lidy. His Lordship enjoined Sir Humphrey to continue to add the interest of my fortune in augmentation of the principal. To this deposit, he

added Lady Alderson's jewels, with all the papers which regarded her memory, or could give me any intelligence with regard to my birth.

Sir Humphrey undertook to fulfil Lord Revel's intentions. He promised to make me mistress of my fortune when I should have attained my eighteenth year, if by that time his Lordship should be incapable of executing his intentions himself. My mother's papers, sealed with Lord Edward's seal and with his own, were committed to the care of Lidy, to be delivered to me when she should receive orders for that purpose. Sir Humphrey likewise gave a very particular receipt, specifying the quantity and quality of the effects of which he acknowledged himself trustee. Three years afterwards I lost my only friend, my virtuous patron. By his affectionate foresight, he intended to secure my felicity. But what does the vain prudence of frail mortals avail, against the power of accident, which overthrows the deepest and best concerted schemes? In an instant, all our dispositions are frustrated, our hopes destroyed, and we are devoted to all the misfortunes from which the limited view of human sagacity thought to have secured us for ever.

I lamented the loss of Lord Revel, I bewailed his death exceedingly. But I was of an age when the impression of grief is so quickly effaced, that it may be deemed no more than a transient interruption of joy. How often since had I shed bitter tears to the memory of this truly valuable and generous friend. Alas, his goodness, his tenderness, his generosity, could not preserve me from my unhappy destiny. Ah, Madam, what a happy state is that of childhood! Wherefore do we never enjoy felicity, but at an age when we are insensible of it; when so far from being delighted with that inward composure of mind, we generally extend our thoughts to futurity, which will either alter or destroy it. I had attained my fifteenth year, without a single reflection to disturb my mind, or interrupt the pleasing uniformity of my life; but an accident, seemingly of no consequence, began to make me uneasy concerning my

my birth, or at least about my parents conduct with regard to me.

As I was walking one day with six of my school fellows, their women, Lidy and two of our governesses, I climbed up a hill, from whence I perceived at a distance a house, whose situation appeared to me delightful: I proposed to direct our walk that way, and no one opposing that motion, we crossed, for the first time, the field which was the usual boundary of our walk, and we reached the avenue of the seat. A gardener, who was pruning some trees, opened a little gate for us. He led us into the most pleasant and beautiful garden it is possible to conceive. The gardener being our guide, we ran over that delightful spot with that infantine pleasure which the least novelty excites. We thought proper to rest ourselves in a little grove full of flowers, and where four fountains, which were continually playing, diffused an agreeable freshness. Our governesses and our waiting women sat down upon the grass; but the natural sprightliness of our youth soon inclined us to go in pursuit of amusement, and we began to dance all the country dances we had learned.

While we were engaged in this exercise, a young gentleman in a hunting dress appeared of a sudden in the midst of us. My companions, so soon as they perceived him, left off dancing. I being more lively and heedless than the rest, was angry with them, without taking any notice of the spectator whose presence had checked them. At length he catched my eye, and we looked at each other, but he could easily read in my countenance that his presence was uneasy to me.

He drew near to me, and saluting me with a low bow, asked pardon for having, by his intrusion, interrupted a diversion which I had good reason to be fond of, as it gave me an opportunity of displaying so many graces. It is impossible, he added, to deprive you of a moment's pleasure without regret; if my presence inspires you with dullness or disgust, I shall have a double cause to lament the accident which threw me in your way.

On hearing this apology, Mrs. Anne, the eldest of our governesses, began to think that she had committed a great mistake in suffering us to come into a house, where she was not acquainted with any body. Concluding from the noble air of the young sportsman, that he was master of it, she began to compliment him in so absurd a manner, that I could not forbear smiling at the solemnity of her harangue. The return of my usual gaiety gave spirits to our little party. The person, who had disconcerted us, immediately proposed that we should resume the country dance we broke off; we looked at each other, and by common consent, we continued our dance, with the same pleasure as before.

In the mean while the gardener who introduced us, having received orders, went out of the grove, and presently returned laden with flowers and fruits; several footmen following him with refreshments of every kind. The gentleman, whose attention had provided them so opportunely, presented them to us. He offered them in so polite and pressing a manner, that we could not decline accepting them: When it was time for us to go, we would have taken leave of him; but the night drawing on, the probability of its overtaking us in the way, furnished our officious sportsman with a pretence of waiting on us. He made me an offer of one arm, and Miss Clifford accepted of the other: we walked on, and we all three entertained each other with as much familiarity as if we had been old acquaintance.

When we reached the house, where it was proper for us to part, our guide expressed a violent reluctance at leaving us. His cheerful air was succeeded by a melancholy cast; when he was ready to go, he still found some reason to stay, and Miss Clifford countenanced all his pretences. He was very inquisitive to learn from me my name, my condition, and my connections. My companion had acquainted him with all these particulars. His repeated questions began to tire me, when at length he forced himself to leave us.

This adventure served us for entertainment the whole evening. We were informed that the seat where

we had been, belonged to Lord Clare, an Irish Poet, much esteemed at court, and beloved by his country ; but that it was become melancholy and almost deserted by means of an unhappy accident. Being passionately in love with Lord Clarendon's daughter, and on the point of being married to her, his hopes were disappointed by her cruel and unexpected death. He had for two years bewailed her loss, and passed a great part of the year at his country seat, that he might, without interruption, give way to the soothing melancholy which he loved to indulge. His friends from time to time participated of his retirement, but could not withdraw him from it. Sir Edmond his brother, who was but nineteen, lived there with him, and was just then setting out upon his travels. . . . Sir Edmond ! What uneasiness and perturbation does that name occasion me ! Ah, Madam, why did not this younger brother of Lord Clare pay his addresses to me at that time ? Doomed to love me, and be beloved, he might then have made that lively and tender impression on my heart, which is now tormented with such bitter affliction ; I might then without reserve have given way to an inclination, which gratitude and friendship now forbid me to listen to, or indulge. O, that amiable Edmond ! As I was doomed to see him, wherefore did I see him so late ! Why cannot I contribute to his happiness ! What fatality compells me to conceal my affection, to renounce my own happiness, and the certainty of promoting his felicity, by gratifying my most earnest wishes.

Miss Clifford amused herself with conjecturing which of the two brothers met us in the wood. The person whom we saw, appeared, by his figure, to be more than nineteen, and his cheerful and sprightly air did not correspond with what we heard of Lord Clare's disposition : The following letter, which we received three days after our walk, cleared up our doubts.

SIR JAMES HANTLEY'S Letter to Miss JENNY
GLANVILLE.

'Charming Miss,

SINCE this month, which I have passed at Lord Clare's in reflecting with terror on the melancholy effects of an unfortunate passion, I flattered myself that these reflections would secure me against a propensity which I have ever dreaded. But a glance from your eye has put me beside myself, has destroyed all the efficacy of example, and rendered all the dictates of reason vain and fruitless. What beauties, what graces, what various charms have captivated my mind and engaged my heart! . . . Be not offended, lovely Miss, at this frank confession. The affection which extorts it from me, is as respectful, as it is lively and impassioned; it transports me violently, and discovers itself in spite of me. I have been rudely refused the honour of visiting you. I have twice attempted it in vain; condescend to listen to me, or at least make me acquainted by what method I may obtain permission to convince you of my assiduity. He whose affections you have gained, may form pretensions to you, if all those externals which are of estimation in the world, may not be thought too slight a title to win your esteem, and to merit that preference in your favour, which includes all the wishes of

JAMES HANTLEY.

A woman who sold us ribbons, gave me this letter with a vast deal of circumspection, and charged me not to mention from whose hands I received it. It was Lidy, whose repulses disturbed the Baronet; he could not gain her consent to allow him the liberty of speaking to me. As she was punctual in pursuing Lord Revel's instructions, she thought it her duty not to let any gentleman come near me, whose agreeable figure might strike me, and make me wait with impatience till the time came, which

which his Lordship had prescribed for me to assume the government of myself.

I read the letter without any emotion. Nothing but the most extravagant vanity can dispose us to relish the pleasure of inspiring sentiments which are not reciprocal. The Baronet's passion did not affect me ; and so far from endeavouring to keep it a secret, I carried the letter to Lidy.

This girl, born in a station wherein interest is generally the spring which actuates the mind, had employed her leisure hours, while she was about me, in cultivating her understanding by well chosen books. Her acquired talents, joined to her extreme benevolence of heart, rendered her vastly amiable. She thought with judgment, and expressed herself with propriety. She was taken notice of in the family ; she was most affectionately attached to me ; I loved her ; a want of confidence in her, nay the least reserve, I should have considered as a kind of treason.

She read the letter, and returning it to me : What do you think of it, Miss, said she. Nothing, I answered ; I wait for your advice in what manner to act. If you will be persuaded by me, she replied, you will pay no regard to these alluring proposals. The daring adventurers of the bolder sex are lavish of them, their seeming submission is frequently a mask to conceal their injurious enterprizes. Men in general do not act with that amiable sincerity which is your distinguishing characteristic. Those of greatest honour among them, think it no crime to deceive us. They have established an unnatural law among themselves, by which they imagine that they are exempted from the rules of justice and integrity in their commerce with us. They do not blush to impose upon one half of the creation ; but while they thus lessen their own obligations, they extend ours, since the necessity they lay upon us of making the practice of honour and virtue habitual, obliges us to conduct ourselves with equal circumspection, both with regard to our own sex, and with our tyrants. Nevertheless, Miss, she added, you are at liberty either to admit

or refuse the Baron's visits. There is no restraint on your inclinations. Whoever engages your affections, will meet with no opposition from Sir Humphrey. Nevertheless I am sensible that, agreeably to Lord Revel's will, it is not his intention to dispose of you yet.

How, said I immediately, does the time of my settlement in life depend on Lord Revel's will, who is no more, or on Sir Humphrey's pleasure? Are not my parents alive? Notwithstanding they dwell in a distant country, have not they a right to dispose of me? This question seemed to disconcert her; she sighed, fixed her eyes on the ground, and made me no answer. Her silence and sadness occasioned me an uneasiness I had never experienced before. How happens it, my dear Lidy, said I, that my parents who are so attentive to provide every thing either useful or agreeable to me, should nevertheless be indifferent about receiving any marks of my affectionate and grateful acknowledgment? Why is Sir Humphrey alone charged with a correspondence which would be so delightful to me? Could not they allow me to write to them, and honour me with their kindness without the intervention of a third person?

Lidy sighed again, and paused for a while: Then looking at me with an air of tenderness: O Miss, Miss, said she, an immense distance divides you from those parents, whose protection would be so necessary to guide your youthful steps. Accustom yourself to suppose, that perhaps you may never behold them. Improve your disposition so that you may have strength within yourself, to dispense with the assistance of your friends. Cultivate the amiable qualities of your mind. Cherish and preserve your native composure, and be not forward to attract the dangerous addresses of the other sex. If you knew what torment your mother endured on account of that passion with which they wish to inspire you! You will one day know . . . there her tears interrupted her. I could not prevail on her to explain herself farther. But her words and her tears made a strong impression upon me, and excited in me a restless desire

desire of knowing my parents. I embraced Lidy, assuring her that the Baronet was quite indifferent to me ; and, giving her the letter, I left it to her to pen an answer.

Miss Clifford had beheld Sir James with less indifference. She spoke of him every day, and wished to go out, in hopes of meeting with him again. This longing, which she took no pains to conceal, was excited by the continual details she entered into with regard to the subject of Lord Clare's uneasiness. A tender sympathy made her take a part in his concerns ; she listened to the same recitals a hundred times over, and mentioned his name every moment. I judged it proper to undeceive her ; and to convince her that she had not seen Lord Clare, I desired Lidy to show her the Baronet's letter.

She blushed while she was reading it ; but his having given me the preference, did not inspire her with any aversion to me, or lessen her partiality to him. She gave a strong proof of it by an extraordinary step, which even her youth, her want of experience and excessive vivacity, could scarcely justify in the opinion of any rational person.

After having used, in vain, every expedient by which she might engage me to return the Baronet an answer, she wrote to him in my name. The young lady thought that her letter was no more than civil, but in fact it was very expressive. She told him that being subject to the will of a rigid governess, I was not at liberty to follow my own inclinations. She advised him to ask leave to pay Miss Clifford a visit ; and she assured him, that he would certainly obtain it. As the most affectionate intimacy subsisted between us, she intimated that if he had access to her, he would easily find an opportunity of seeing, and conversing with me.

Miss Clifford signed my name, and sent this indiscreet letter without any previous communication with me. The Baronet overjoyed, thinking himself sure of a welcome reception, and supposing that he was writing to me, returned an answer penned in terms of the stron-

gest gratitude and most ardent passion. Miss Clifford received a note from him that same evening directed to herself. He pressed her earnestly to give him an opportunity of assuring her, how respectfully he courted an occasion of gaining her esteem, and enjoying the delight of her conversation; it is impossible, said he, to approach you, but with a view to pay you that assiduity and homage which you have so much right to demand. Miss sent him word that she would be glad to see him.

The next day Miss Clifford was desired to go into the drawing room, where it was usual to receive strangers. Soon after she sent to invite me thither. My surprize, at finding the baronet with her, occasioned her to rally me: And the conversation between them grew very sprightly. Sir James displayed all the graces which distinguish the behaviour of a man of pleasure and vivacity, used to good company, who is studious to please, and flatters himself with success. The assurance of success gives vain people a superiority which those who are modest scarce ever acquire, which is that of exhibiting every natural endowment, of displaying them to the best advantage, and of comporting themselves with that graceful ease which renders every motion engaging.

Miss Clifford listened to him with attention, applauded him, and seemed delighted with every thing he said. My silence and reserve, which were too evident to pass unobserved, seemed in some degree to abate Sir James's vivacity. His manner of accosting me seemed somewhat free; some words uttered in a low tone, of which I could not catch the meaning; a certain air of confidence, and even of intimacy which he assumed with me, gave me a kind of uneasiness and peevishness, which, notwithstanding his good opinion of his own merit, it was difficult for him to construe in his favour. I thought his visit long: When he had left us, Miss Clifford confessed the whole to me. She shewed me a copy of her letter, with the two answers from the Baronet, of which the first was addressed to me. She reproached me with my indifference to Sir James, and intreated

intreated me earnestly not to deprive her of the innocent pleasure which his company afforded her ; a pleasure she should lose, if I rejected his solicitations. She spoke to me in most moving terms; I was affected, and promised all she asked, except that of concealing from Lidy a proceeding which appeared to me more mysterious than unbecoming.

My notions were not comprehensive enough to discover that my young friend exposed me to vast inconveniences on this occasion ; it was entirely owing to my natural sincerity and friendly intimation that I resolved to communicate the affair to Lidy. She was uneasy at the relation, and soon convinced me what opinion Sir James would entertain with regard to my sentiments, if I permitted him to conclude, that so kind an invitation came from me. After such a billet doux, my reserve would appear to be mere coquetry, and would by no means destroy that degree of countenance I gave to his addresses. She engaged to undeceive him, she censured Miss Clifford's indiscretion severely, and found it very difficult to repair her ill conduct, without discovering to the Baronet, the inclination which Miss Clifford entertained towards him.

Sir James was greatly chagrined, when he understood that the flattering billet-doux he had received, was neither of my hand writing, nor penned with my consent. He was extremely assiduous to render himself agreeable to me ; and he already began to entertain some favourable hopes of succeeding. This explanation however corresponding with the reception I gave him, occasioned him infinite disquietude. He expressed it in the most moving terms. His pathetic expostulations affected Lidy : And she was not swayed by the resolution which had been settled, not to dispose of me till I was eighteen. She even thought that it would be more for my interest, to be under the protection of a husband betimes, than to be left so young under the guidance of my own discretion. The Baronet seemed to be a proper match for me. His age, his person, and his family all conspired to make our union suitable. He
was

was of Scotch extraction, and was dependent on his mother. But as no less than twenty thousand pounds sterling accomplished the tender of my hand, that circumstance alone made me of some consequence, and might atone for the irregularity of my birth in the opinion even of persons of rank. All these reflections suddenly occurred to her, and made her resolve not to oppose the earnest inclination Sir James expressed of paying his addresses to me. If he should prove agreeable to me, she proposed to acquaint Sir Humphrey, and dispose him to anticipate the time when he was to make me mistress of my own fortune. Thus leaving my inclinations, and the success of the Baronet's addresses to the direction of chance, without allowing him to visit me in particular, she gave him the liberty of seeing me in company with Miss Clifford, and promised him to suggest nothing to me which might either advance or retard the good effect of his solicitations.

Sir James, contented with this regulation, continued his addresses to Miss Clifford with vast assiduity. Notwithstanding Lidy had apologized for that young Lady's conduct by the most natural turn imaginable, yet the Baronet soon discovered her partiality for him. He never saw me but in her company. Several women were constantly present in the drawing room, where we received his visits. Being under a necessity of suppressing his sentiments to a great degree, he gave them utterance in the most passionate letters which fondness could dictate. I received them, more out of compliance with Miss Clifford's intreaties, than the Baronet's ardent importunities, but I never answered them. My young friend read them, and was astonished to see me run them over with indifference. Who can hope to please you, said she, if an agreeable man, who is worthy of your affection, is the object of your insensibility? Her tenderness for him increased daily; she never left him, but with regret; whenever he appeared, pleasure sparkled in her eyes; but the innocence and purity of her sentiments, were still superior to their vivacity.

Six months elapsed without producing any alteration, either in her sentiments or in mine. Sir James came one day to acquaint us that he was obliged to set out immediately for Scotland, without being able to ascertain precisely when the urgent business which called him away, would allow him to return. He appeared to be under violent emotions, all the happiness of his life, he said, depended on the success of his journey. His uncertainty with regard to my sentiments, his apprehension of having made no progress in my affections, his leaving me at liberty to receive the addresses of some favourite lover, all these considerations, made his parting from me very painful to him. He shed tears when he spoke to me; I was moved by his distress, from that natural principle by which every good disposition is affected, on behalf of an object which appears worthy of compassion. Sir James could not inspire me with any farther degree of sensibility. A faint promise not to engage myself before his return, unless some unforeseen accident should oblige me, with a promise likewise to answer his letters, were the only favours he could win from my compassion. Miss Clifford was affected at his departure. Her love was so pure and disinterested, that it was as devoid of jealousy as of hope; and her tender friendship to me was not impaired by the circumstance of my being her rival.

Some time before Sir James left us, Lidy received a letter from Sir Humphrey which occasioned her vast uneasiness. Without acquainting me with the subject of her inquietude, she set out for London with great precipitation. She staid there three weeks. The concern she expressed at parting from me, her silence and her long stay in town, threw me into great consternation. I waited for her return with extreme impatience. She arrived the day after Sir James's departure, dejected, altered, and scarce the same creature. I ran to meet her; but she took me into my closet, shut the door, seated herself, sighed, and remained quite motionless. I no sooner enquired the reason of her being thus disordered, than her grief burst forth. She screamed aloud;

she

she wrung her hands, and dropping her head into her bosom; O heavenly powers! She cried, What will become of us?

I, quite alarmed, shocked, and terrified, embraced her, and dried up her tears. What is the matter, what is the matter with you, my dear Lidy? said I. You are undone, Miss, said she, her tears gushing forth with double violence; undone, ruined, sunk for ever! Abandoned to the wide world! without parents, without friends, without fortune, without any support. O Lady Sarah! O my dear mistress! Look down from heaven, and protect your unfortunate daughter!

I felt a dreadful shock at hearing those words, *ruined, sunk for ever*; nevertheless, I was very far from comprehending them in all their circumstances of horror. I intreated Lidy to explain herself: I waited for her explanation with trembling; but her cries, her tears, her oppression of mind, deprived her of the power of utterance. She could only explain herself by groans, and passionate invocations: O Lady Sarah! O Lord Edward! She repeated over and over, save and protect the unfortunate Jenny.

The violence of her tears having somewhat composed the extreme agitations and emotions of her mind, she at length discovered to me the secret of my birth. After a very circumstantial detail with regard to the melancholy state of my parents; Sir Humphrey, she continued, the trustee of your fortune, lived for some time in great intimacy with Mrs. Lardner. She was the wife of a lieutenant in the regiment of guards: whose intriguing spirit and irregular conduct, brought him into such ill circumstances as obliged him to quit England, and go to the plantations. Mrs. Lardner solicited the Earl of Revel's patronage, to procure some employment for her husband there. Sir Humphrey whom his Lordship sent to acquaint her with his intentions to provide for Lardner, had the misfortune to find charms in her which he had not power to resist. He loved her, flattered himself that he was agreeable to her, and in the course of ten years, his affection towards her was not

in the least abated: Nevertheless he had no reason to boast of her complaisance; she treated him with haughtiness, and gave him frequent occasions to suspect her fidelity. But a vicious inclination is often maintained, nay animated, by the very circumstance which would destroy the sentiment in a mind of any delicacy.

Whether habit had rendered her necessary to Sir Humphrey, or whether she had the art of concealing those defects which might have disgusted him, from the time of Lord Revel's death, they dwelt in the same house, and lived in the closest intimacy. A very handsome annuity which Sir Humphrey held from the Earl's generosity, and two little estates in Ireland, furnished them with a competent income, managed with œconomy.

His desire of obliging mistress Lardner, induced him to dispose of his patrimony, he sold it; and just as he was going to settle the produce of it upon his mistress, one of his friends who had enriched himself by insuring ships, persuaded him to try that means of increasing his capital. His pursuing this advice, proved of fatal consequence. Three ships which Sir Humphrey intured before the declaration of war, were taken on their return home. The news of this loss, with the utter impossibility of repairing it, together with the regret of losing the only means of securing Mrs. Lardner's attachment, had thrown him into a bad state of health for six months past; by degrees, his melancholy settled into an absolute decline. While he was in this languid condition, his mistress, who thought of nothing but herself and her own interest, was industrious in collecting all the papers which she intended to conceal from his heirs, and which she might embezzle if Sir Humphrey's illness became dangerous. Chance guided her in this research, which is the fatal cause of our ruin.

Among other strengthening medicines prescribed to Sir Humphrey, was advised to take Hanover powder. In a private nest of drawers at the bottom of his escrutore, where he kept his most precious effects, there was a small quantity of this powder. He never entrusted any body

dy with the keys. His weakness confining him to his bed, he gave them to Mrs. Lardner, and directed her to the place where she would find this powder. Not meeting with the box immediately, she removed a heap of papers, and under them found some loose jewels, and afterwards discovered a letter case, half open, from whence three or four bank bills dropped out. These discoveries surprized her; but not having time then to satisfy her curiosity, she pushed the drawer in, without shutting it, and waited till night for an opportunity of examining the contents. The bills upon the public funds, of which the letter case was full, made her consider the slight gratuities she received from Sir Humphrey as an indication of his indifference or avarice. Her mind being already wicked and corrupt, she began to entertain a hatred against him, on reflecting how much he had limitted his generosity towards her, when he had it so much in his power to have extended it. She imagined that the taking of the ships was but an idle pretence, to avoid making an inconsiderable settlement for her benefit; and she thought herself treated unjustly. A bad disposition never wants pretences to justify the most criminal resolutions. She breathed nothing but revenge, and being determined to deprive Sir Humphrey of a fortune which he would not allow her to enjoy, she that very night took away all the effects which were your property, and in their stead left a long letter, in which she explained the reasons which influenced her to commit this infamous action. One of her relations went off with her, and they have not yet been able to overtake them.

I went to London on the receipt of a letter from Sir Humphrey. He told me nothing, but gave me room to apprehend every thing. I found him in a dreadful condition. His confidence and tenderness so cruelly betrayed, the regret of having been so long abused, your ruin, of which he accuses himself, together with the weak state to which his illness had already reduced him, all together have affected his understanding. It was with difficulty I learned, from his broken and confused account,

account, the melancholy adventure I have just now related ; I obtained more information from the letter which the miserable wretch left behind her, than from him. His intellects grew worse and worse. I left him almost in a state of childhood ; upon certain confused recollections, he gives way to piteous lamentations, and sometimes dissolves in tears. His recovery is despaired of ; if he lives, in this condition, you can expect no relief from him ; if he dies, you are without a friend in the world.

Imagine to yourself, Madam, what emotions I must have felt, during this astonishing narrative. To learn that I was nothing, that I had no dependence on any one, that so many beings round me might all abandon me, without my having a right to complain, without any obligation on a single creature to asswage my misery, or even interest themselves in my distress ! How affecting are the first strokes of grief ! How vastly they extend our ideas ! A croud of reflections thronged into my mind. I found myself in the situation of a traveller, who should of a sudden find the earth sink under his feet. In the midst of this gloomy contemplation, I cast my eye on Lady Sarah's picture. The sight of it affected me violently. I fell upon my knees, stretched forth my arms towards the picture, and looking at it as if I had never beheld it before : O my mother, O my dear mother ! You are then no more, said I, bursting into tears. I am doomed then never to see you ! The arms of a tender mother will never embrace the unfortunate Jenny. She will never be the object of a father's affectionate caresses ; she is destined to communicate joy to no one ! No one will participate, no one will mitigate the rigour of her fate ! Ah, what kind hand will wipe away my tears ! What bosom will be open to the cries of my afflicted heart !

Lidy, shocked at these melancholy exclamations, knelt down by me. Dear Miss, said she, lift your innocent eyes up toward heaven ; implore the protection of the Almighty, walk in his ways, and his blessings will attend you. Lord Alderson is yet alive : Time perhaps,

perhaps may have corrected his haughtiness, taken off the edge of his resentment, and altered his disposition. He has been hitherto a stranger to the fate of his unhappy daughter ; when he learns it, he will perhaps be pleased to find a relation in you, whose tender assiduities may administer comfort to him in his old age. I will conduct you to him ; your misfortune cannot fail to move him. Should he prove inflexible, I am yet young enough to work ; having been in a situation to live at my ease, I have had no occasion for industry, but my zeal and friendship will give me strength and ability ; I can easily procure you all the necessaries of life. My attachment to you shall never, no, never forsake you.

Ah my dear Lidy, my only friend, said I, throwing myself into her arms, I have no dependence but on you in the world, on heaven and you. Guide me, and instruct me, I will participate of all your cares ; you are my sister, my support, my comfort. Ah, I have only you, I repeated again, clasping her to my bosom, do not desert me, never forsake me ! She could only answer by the most affectionate caresses. We passed the remainder of the day in weeping, and exchanging mutual assurances to live and die together.

On the morrow, Lidy put my mother's papers into my hand. With what emotion did I run over them, how many tears did I shed on account of my father's cruel fate ! How fond did I become of his memory ! I kissed his letters respectfully, and bathed those sheets with my tears whereon Lady Sarah had expressed her affection for him. The impression I received, when I first read these letters, will never be effaced from my recollection, it struck me deeply with sentiments of the most tender and heart-felt compassion. It engraved in my mind a love and respect for the memories of Edward and Sarah. And shall paltry interest and empty honours now prevail over such filial piety ? Ah, Madam, I should despise myself, if I thought that I was capable of renouncing such sentiments.

I was under a necessity of coming to a resolution, and that speedily. I had sixty guineas left, which was a sum,

a sum to be managed with œconomy. I paid twelve guineas a month where I boarded. Lidy, knowing the impossibility of defraying such expence, had hired a lodging in London conditionally, at Mrs. Mabel's, her sister. She asked me if I would go thither? Mrs. Mabel, who had been a widow about two years, carried on her husband's business. She made and sold ribbons, edgings, and several other commodities in silk. Lidy proposed to learn the trade, with a view to work at it, and to pay a moderate sum for my board, that I might not be under a necessity of working. Her affectionate kindness induced her to conceal from me this part of the agreement which she had already made with her sister, for fear lest I should oppose her resolution of working alone for our subsistence. Being resolved to follow her advice, I consented to go to Mrs. Mabel's, and wait an opportunity of throwing myself on Lord Alderson's protection.

I acquainted my companions with my intention of leaving them. I pretended that it was in consequence of an order I received from my parents, who were on their way to England, and desired me to wait their arrival in London. I found an extreme reluctance to quit that house, where I had passed so many happy and tranquil hours. My parting with Miss Clifford was affecting. As I was leaving her, I recollect Sir James. He had written to me on the road; but my then disposition of mind would not allow me to think of him. I desired Miss Clifford to receive his letters, to open them, and even answer them if she pleased. We promised to write to each other often, and mutually to communicate whatever was interesting to either. It was my design to maintain a punctual correspondence with her. But a senseless and ill grounded pride, which makes us blush at poverty, induced me to break my engagement; I had not the fortitude to let Miss Clifford know into what a house my ill fortune had obliged me to retreat.

On my arrival at London, I was struck with the most melancholy reflections. Lidy's sister had not education, nor gentleness of manners. Every thing in her house

house displeased me and disgusted me. I quitted an apartment which was rather spacious, and handsomely furnished; as it was open to a prospect over an extensive country, its situation was as healthy as it was agreeable. I now found myself reduced to a small gloomy room, and a little closet appropriated to Lidy. In the room of those agreeable young ladies, with whom I associated at Oxford, the daughters of low mechanicks, whose sentiments were more gross than their conversation, were now my only companions, whenever my irksome condition forced me to court society. Having been accustomed to a neat and cleanly table, I could not seat myself at Mrs. Mable's table without repugnance; every thing inspired me with disgust, and frequently drew tears from my eyes; the hope of finding some relief from Lord Alderon's bounty, was the only consideration which supported me, and prevented my sinking under the weight of affliction, which I felt from so great a change of my condition.

I pressed Lidy to go to him, and to acquaint Lady Sarah's father with the melancholy fate of the unhappy orphan who derived existence from her; but she was too well acquainted with Lord Alderon, not to dread making her appearance before him. A thousand reflections she made on his Lordship's disposition, contributed from time to time, to destroy the consolatory hope of obtaining his protection, and interesting him in my favour. She recollects, with a kind of horror, the haughtiness and inflexibility of his nature. Witness his inhumanity during Lady Sarah's illness, his hatred of Edward, a hatred so unjustly founded! She trembled to think what a reception he might afford their daughter. I argued against her fears. Is it possible, said I, to harbour everlasting resentment? Will not the heart grow weary of entertaining hatred? The affecting narrative of my mother's melancholy exit will move his Lordship. My features will recall to his mind, the image of his unhappy daughter. I am young, poor, deserted, without hope, without support! Who can have a stronger claim to pity! Who can have more title to excite compassion!

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I then judged of the inward feelings of mankind, by the sensations of my own mind. Could I imagine that there existed in nature, beings who were insensible to the pure and delightful pleasure of succouring the distressed, of reviving a heart oppressed with sorrow, and of hearing the welcome expressions of gratitude echo in their ears. I was conscious that my sensibility would have relished such exquisite delight; my own experience convinced me that, to enjoy the happiness of diffusing cheerfulness around us, it was sufficient to be possessed of riches, by the distribution of which a generous mind delights to correct the inequality of fortune.

I was mistaken, Madam! The mournful cries of adversity seldom affect those who are in affluent circumstances; it is on a narrow fortune, it is in a middling station which leaves us something to want, which subjects us to restraint and continual self-denial, that we look down with compassion on those whose wants are still greater than our own. If we can relieve their distresses by only confining ourselves within narrower limits, our constant habit of self-denial inclines us to extend our generosity to them, and makes us relish the delight of relieving the mind of another from that uneasiness which so often disquiets our own.

Lidy was contriving how to gratify my request by presenting me to Lord Alderson, when chance threw Mrs. Hammon in her way, who had been her fellow servant when she waited on Lady Sarah. Probably, Madam, you may recollect her; she had brought her up, and waited on her at the boarding-school where you were with Lady Sarah. Lidy immediately recollected her. After some explanations on both sides, Mrs. Hammon remembered her likewise, and acquainted her that his Lordship, tired of his seat at Alderson, had left it, and spent one half of the year in London, and the other in visiting several country seats which he had near town. She added likewise, that of all his old servants, she was the only one remaining with him. She then expressed some curiosity accompanied with a strong appearance of affection, to know what was become of Lady Sarah, being

Being no stranger to the supposition of her having died at Calais. Her questions affected Lidy; she acquainted her that the loss of Lord Edward had occasioned the death of their mistress. Mrs. Hammon sympathized with her in her grief and regret, and seemed to preserve such a regard and attachment to my mother's memory, that Lidy began to think she might be of use in forwarding our designs. She shewed her where she lived, and invited her to drink tea in the evening. Mrs. Hammon received the invitation with pleasure, and came punctually.

The moment she came in, she looked at me earnestly. After some moments conversation, Lady Sarah's picture struck her Eyes. She started when she beheld it, she viewed it with close attention; and clasping her hands together in a moving manner: O my dear, my lovely young mistress, said she, is this all that remains of you?

This exclamation moved me extremely! I could not restrain my Tears. Ah, my God, who is that charming young lady? said Mrs. Hammon to Lidy. Her features, her graceful deportment, the dignity of her air, her tears. . . . Alas! Is it possible for my suspicions to be true! Lidy assured her that she was not mistaken, if she looked upon me as the daughter of their unfortunate mistress.

I should give but a faint description, Madam, of the tender and unaffected transports of an honest heart, sincerely touched and affected by the melancholy degraded state, to which the daughter of the Duke of Salisbury and Lady Aldefron was then reduced. What respect, what tears, what caresses, intermixed with encomiums on Lord Edward and Lady Sarah! What regret did she express at the loss of them! How many kind and sincere offers did she make, what eagerness did she shew, to be acquainted in what way she might be of service to me. When the first emotions of this zealous and affectionate creature were somewhat abated, Lidy informed her of the accidents which had befallen my mother, acquainted her with my present situation, and asked her advice, confessing the extreme perplexity

perplexity she was under at the very thought of seeing Alderson, much more speaking to him, and presenting to him a daughter of Lady Sarah's.

Without having the least doubt with regard to my birth, Mrs. Hammon nevertheless examined into the proofs of it, they did not appear to her sufficiently strong to convince his Lordship that I was the offspring of his daughter. Mrs. Larkin was dead, and the actual insanity of Sir Humphrey deprived me of the two only witnesses whose testimony could be of any weight. An application unsupported by proof of my parentage, would render my pretensions ineffectual. It seemed evident, that when Lord Revel took the charge of my fortune, he judged it unnecessary to leave me a disputable title to effects, from whence I could never recover any thing adequate to what his generosity had provided for me. My mother's manuscript was but a slight evidence in my favour. The delicacy of her expressions cast a veil of obscurity over the most material circumstances. Her tenderness for Edward, which was expressed in every line, was more likely to prejudice Lord Alderson against her memory, than to revive paternal sentiments in his heart. Age and infirmity, said she, so far from softening his rigour and haughtiness, have added all the disagreeable effects of ill temper to the natural inflexibility of his disposition. As she was his house-keeper, and mistress of his confidence, she was perfectly acquainted with him.

The account she gave, destroyed all my hopes; a melancholy prospect opened to my view; I grew pale; and, turning towards Lidy, I wept bitterly. Mrs. Hammon concerned to see how much her just observations affected me, endeavoured to find out specious reasons to destroy the influence of her first objections. By refusing to read the letters which were sent to him at Alderson, said she, my Lord is still uncertain whether Lady Sarah be dead or alive. Perhaps he would be glad to receive intelligence, which his hatred to Lord Revel would not allow him to inquire after from that nobleman;

man; it may be proper to sound his inclinations in this respect, and to regulate our conduct accordingly.

Ah, said Lidy, who will venture to contradict, in his Lordship's presence, a report which he spread himself? Who will maintain before him that his unhappy daughter did not die at Calais? What a storm woud such presumption raise? Which of us could stand without trembling against the clamour of his voice, and the violence of his rage. I, said Mrs. Hammon, I serve him with zeal and fidelity; but though I am just to my duty, I am not attached to his person. His bad disposition forbids me to entertain a friendship for him. The advantages I reap in his family are not of such consideration in my esteem, as the welfare of Lady Sarah's daughter, and I would readily sacrifice them all to the delight of seeing her happily settled. But let us do nothing rashly; let us endeavour to ensure the success of our desires, and not hazard any imprudent measures. A thought, she continued, is just come into my head; my Lord is at present in Leicestershire; I have orders to go down, and wait his arrival at his seat at Windsor; he proposes to be there towards the end of next month. The season begins to grow mild, I would have you both come to Windsor with me; Miss has need of amusement; that agreeable spot will afford her entertainment. There we may reflect on this important business at our leisure. Sir Humphrey perhaps may recover his strength and his understanding; perhaps heaven may deign to point out to us the means of success, which our short sighted views cannot discover.

I readily agreed to accompany them. The next morning we all three set out for Windsor. My Lord's seat was near the forest; and, as Mrs. Hammon had assured us, presented a most agreeable prospect.

END of PART I.

THE
HISTORY
OF
MISS JENNY, &c.

THE delightful situation of his Lordship's seat, brought Lord Clare's gardens to my mind, and made me reflect what a difference there was in my condition in so short a time. Nevertheless, the clearness of the air, the beauty of the walks, together with the tender and affectionate solicitude of Mrs. Hammon, contributed to asswage my grief. The perplexing cares which spring from poverty, are not attended with those sharp stings which incessantly goad the mind, doomed to endure the torments which arise from reflection. The heavy pressure of such inquietude keeps the mind in a constant state of dejection, and destroys in it all kind of sensibility; but the troublesome idea of ill fortune, being sometimes banished from our thoughts, suffers us to enjoy momentary pleasures, and does not render us incapable of indulging that degree of dissipation, which chance or the assiduity of a friend may afford us.

We passed three weeks in consulting among us the proper means of making Lord Alderson acquainted with his daughter's fate, and with my existence, without enraging him. I absolutely rejected every expedient which might expose Mrs. Hammon to forfeit his good will towards her, I would not incur the risk of so severe a re-

proach. Of all misfortunes, that of having occasioned the ruin of an obliging friend, is the only one whose bitterness is proof against time.

We had not yet concluded on any measures, when my Lord surprized us, and anticipated the time we expected. Chance happened to throw me in his way, where I could not possibly avoid meeting him. I curtseyed to him ; and he was struck with my person, which was somewhat distinguished. He made me a low bow, stopped to let me pass him, followed me with his eyes, then enquired to whom I belonged, and how I came into his house.

Mrs. Hammon satisfied his curiosity, without departing far from the truth. Miss Jenny Glanville, my Lord, said she, is a young orphan, brought up in affluence, with the certainty of a handsome fortune, now reduced, by her guardian's imprudence, to seek protection abroad, and would think herself happy if her talents, her disposition, and her agreeable person, should recommend her to the notice of some lady of fashion, or some rich citizen's wife, who would condescend to take her into their family in the capacity of an humble companion ; a melancholy resource for a young lady of noble extraction, and who, but three months ago, was worth twenty thousand pounds sterling. To this narrative, she added every circumstance, which she thought likely to make him desirous of knowing me, and willing to serve me. Lord Alderton, who knew that she was naturally zealous in behalf of those whom she deemed objects of compassion, was not surprized at the warmth of her expressions. He commended her for having afforded me an asylum, applauded her benevolence, gave her permission to keep me here, wished that they might find some suitable provision for me, pitied me, and changed the discourse.

Some time passed before I had an opportunity of seeing Lord Alderton. One evening, he came down stairs and found me with Mrs. Hammon. He called to her, and gave her some directions. Happening to turn his eyes towards me, I made him a most low obeisance. A slight inclination of his head was all the return he thought proper to make a girl who, though of noble extraction,

extraction, was not possessed of those striking advantages which make a figure in the estimation of the world.

The remarkable difference of his salutation struck me ; and gave me a kind of mortification, which did not proceed from pride alone. I found myself affected : I was so much concerned at the little attention his Lordship paid to me, that I insensibly drew near the door opposite to that where he stood, and went out of the room. Mrs. Hammon, said he, raising his voice, I should be sorry to disturb your young friend, call her back, I am going to leave you. She obeyed, but I made no answer, and hastened towards a walk in the garden, where I gave vent to my tears, without being able at that time to account for the sentiment which drew them from me.

Mrs. Hammon took this opportunity of speaking about me once more to his Lordship. She gave him a very affecting description of my situation, and she extolled my talents exceedingly. She tried to make him desirous of amusing himself with me at least. He was passionately fond of music, and I understood it tolerably well. He heard her without seeming weary of the discourse, but without shewing that it made any impression upon him, and presently left her, repeating as he went away, Call her back, I will not disturb her.

Two days after this conversation passed, his Lordship one morning asked Mrs. Hammon, if she could not procure him the pleasure of hearing me play on the harpsichord, and sing a few airs. She ran to me transported with joy. He wants to see you, Miss, said she, he has a desire of hearing you, and heaven no doubt has inspired him with this desire. Be not ashamed to comply with his Lordship's inclinations. Employ your wit to divert him, your talents to amuse him, make yourself necessary to him, that if possible he may never wish to have you out of his sight. Dear Miss, perhaps this moment may determine your future felicity.

It was unnecessary to persuade me to pay due deference to Lord Alderson ; the very sight of him made an impression on me. His Lordship's noble and majestic appearance, the venerable cast which age gave to his

features, which were still comely enough to be admired ; the pleasure of looking for the first time, upon a person to whom I was allied by blood, who, though not obliged by law to afford me protection, was yet bound by the ties of nature to pity me, to love me, and to provide for me ; a thousand circumstances concurred to make his presence affecting, and disposed me to respect and oblige Lady Sarah's father.

Mrs. Hammon conducted me into the drawing room where his Lordship waited for me. He received me with politeness. After apologizing for the longing he had to hear me, and for the trouble he should give me, he desired me to sit down to the harpsichord. I obeyed. While I was playing, his Lordship seemed surprized at my command of finger, and when I sung he seemed delighted with the sweetness and modulation of my voice. After these encomiums on me, he extolled the composer of a little piece which had pleased him exceedingly, he took notice of the difference of taste with regard to harmony, and expatiated on the subject with a great deal of skill. He recounted several particulars which occurred in his travels through France and Italy, countries, said he, where disputes frequently arise concerning the preference which each nation challenges in this respect. I heard him with great attention, one observation naturally introduced another ; his discourse was connective, and before he had finished, a servant acquainted him that dinner was upon table. I made a motion to withdraw, but he detained me, and desired my company to dinner. Mrs. Hammon had hastened it, in hopes to obtain me this honour. During the repast his Lordship preserved an air of chearfulness. He ordered his coach to be ready at five, and seemed sorry that he was obliged to go out that evening : When he left me, he returned me thanks for the agreeable entertainment I had afforded him.

This happy beginning presented a smiling prospect. Nevertheless Lidy could never entertain the hopes which Mrs. Hammon conceived. She industriously avoided meeting with his Lordship, and trembled for the consequences both to herself and me, the moment that he learned

learned from whom I derived my existence. The next day, about dinner time, I received a message that his Lordship desired my company. Delighted with this invitation, I ran to his apartment. I was received as one whose presence was welcome. After dinner I played on the harpsichord, and I did not leave him till the hour he usually withdrew to sleep. Every day advanced me in Lord Alderson's favour. I had already received some slight instances of his partiality. At the request of his chaplain, I presented to him the humble petition of his tenants. I obliged every one in the house; the respect of his servants increased towards me in proportion to the distinction which their master paid me. They began to say in private; *Miss Jenny will soon be Lady Alderson.* They thought his Lordship strongly attached to my person. Such as were of that opinion, did not know how far they who amuse the great by their complaisance, are capable of engaging their minds, without affecting their hearts.

I lived above a month in this kind of intimacy with his Lordship. I dined at his table, and passed a considerable part of the day with him, without his ever condescending to ask me a single question concerning the melancholy state of my fortune, without his desiring to know the particulars of my distress, or the resources I might still have left. A humour in his eyes prevented him from taking his usual walk for some time. The shutters of his apartment were almost closed, and made the room so dark, that I could scarcely read the difficult pieces which he loved to hear me play. After some time he was cured, and was glad to find himself at liberty to walk over his gardens, and enjoy the improvements which had been lately made.

One morning he sent to desire that I would take a walk with him. I attended him to the brink of a piece of water, where a number of water-fowls played around, and were used to come on the slightest signal to scramble for corn which was thrown to them. This place was vastly exposed, there was no shade near it. His Lordship had never before viewed me with such attention, nor had such an opportunity of examining my person.

He retreated from me in a kind of surprize, listed up his hands, and said something in broken accents, of which I readily collected the meaning. He drew near me again, then retired once more, then again advanced towards me, and looked at me stedfastly without uttering a word. At length, leaning over the ballustrade which went round the basin, he held down his head over the water, and said : What features, what a likeness, what an astonishing resemblance !

How was my heart agitated, Madam ! His Lordship discovered my resemblance to Lady Sarah ; it struck him, but his surprize was not intermixed with any tincture of tenderness. The severity of his looks chilled me. Agitated and uneasy, I said not a word, and waited with trembling in hopes that his Lordship would break this awful silence himself.

His countenance which became so gloomy in an instant, seemed to brighten by degrees. He turned towards me, and made a kind of apology for his absent fit. You have struck me, said he, with a lively recollection of a person whose memory is odious to me. Your features resemble hers, but I hope you are not destined to imitate her conduct, and I pray heaven to secure you from her frailty. We continued our walk, and my Lord for the first time enquired when I had lost my parents, by what accident I was deprived of my fortune, and what was my father's rank and estate.

Having been pre-instructed what answers to return, I might easily have satisfied him without betraying myself ; but being unaccustomed to disguise the truth, I hesitated, my perplexity appeared in the very tone of my voice, and I endeavoured to turn the conversation from a subject which seemed to do violence to the sincerity of my nature. His Lordship went in much sooner than he seemed to have intended ; under pretence of being weary and wanting to compose himself, he quitted me somewhat abruptly.

I concluded myself undone. Mrs. Hammon and Lidy likewise imagined that he was going to withdraw his favour from me. Nevertheless at dinner time, I received a message as usual, that he desired my company.

pany. I perceived no alteration in his countenance, but he talked to me less and observed me more. That which should have made me more dear to his affections, alienated them from me. I often found his behaviour cool and grave. For several days he bowed when he rose from the table, and withdrew with a kind of precipitation, as if he was afraid lest I should follow him. These appearances destroyed my hopes, afflicted Mrs. Hammon, and confirmed Lidy in the opinion that it would be imprudent to discover my birth, and acquaint him with a secret which would only make him my enemy.

His Lordship was seized with a slight fever, attended with a violent fit of the gout. Notwithstanding the coolness with which he had treated me since our walk, my affection towards him was not in the least impaired. His cries went to my heart. Eager in sharing with Mrs. Hammon the office of assisting him, and waiting with assiduity near his bed, I flew to execute his orders. When I heard him complain aloud of the acute pains he endured, I could not refrain my tears. As he grew better, he appeared to remember my assiduity, and seemed sensible of the solicitude with which I endeavoured to amuse him during his illness. He began to walk about the room and to gather strength. I was most sincerely glad of his happy recovery, and often expressed it. I thought that he seemed pleased with the tender and unaffected proofs of my attachment, and my friendship towards him grew stronger.

As I was alone with him one day, I was reading a French book which had been just sent him, and which seemed to entertain him greatly. Happening to drop a Decanter out of his hand, I endeavoured to catch it, and save it from the ground. As I was stooping hastily, a ribbon, to which my father's picture hung, and which was somewhat tight about my neck, broke; upon which I imprudently took it from my neck. The picture, which was concealed in my bosom, appearing, it excited his Lordship's curiosity, he desired to see it, and made a motion to take it.

My blushes, the extreme perplexity which was visible in my countenance, my consternation and fright immediately struck Lord Alderson. He seized the picture, and easily snatched it out of my feeble hand ; fear had chilled my blood, and rendered me dumb, and almost lifeless.

Hatred, as well as love, impresses ideas deeply in the memory. My Lord immediately recollects Edward's picture. He cried out in a faint tone, and then gave way to the following exclamations. Where am I ? said he. What snares would they lay for me ? What vile conspiracy are they forming against me ? Her striking resemblance to Lady Sarah, and this picture have no doubt suggested to some low minds the scheme of imposing upon me, of mocking my old age, of deceiving me. Moved by a violent impulse, I threw myself at his feet, seized one of his hands, pressed and kissed it ; and the powerful sentiment which inspired me, giving me courage to speak : My Lord, said I, no snares are spread for you ; you are not imposed upon. Forgive me, ah ! forgive an unfortunate girl who implores your pity, do not punish me for placing my hopes in you : It is Lady Sarah's daughter ; it is your own who sighs at your feet ; ah ! do not hate me ! I do not deserve your hatred.

My tears obliged me to break off. With the hand which I left him at liberty, my Lord tried to push me from him. But throwing my arms around him, embracing him eagerly ; Deprive me of life, said I ; but do not overwhelm me by your anger and scorn ; do not turn away from a poor deserted girl, who is more affected by your disdain, than by her misfortunes. No, it is no longer a protector, it is a parent whom I look for in you ! I respect you, I love you ! The first sight of you inspired my heart with a sentiment never felt before, and made me more solicitous to be indebted to your affection than to your generosity. Looks of less severity, one endearing expression which you might condescend to honour me with, would be more dear and welcome to me than the recovery of my fortune. Call me your daughter,

daughter ! Allow me for once, but for once, to give you the name of father, and I shall think myself happy !

He tried again to push me from him ; No, no, said I, you shall not escape from me ! My heart is attached to you for ever. Ah ! do not discard me from your presence, do not banish me from your house ; no matter in what capacity I stay here ; well satisfied with continuing near you, I will revere you as my father, or will serve you as my master, if you require it.

If my oppression of heart had not stifled my voice, I could have said much more. His Lordship stood motionless with rage, and had not power to interrupt me. At length he gave vent to his passion ; he forced himself from my arms, and assuming that dreadful tone, which made him appear so terrible to the wretch whose fate depended on his will : Audacious girl, said he, dare you pretend to be of my family ? Ha ! What if you were — tremble, shudder, dread the just punishment of your falsehood and audacity. To call yourself my daughter, mine ! Ha ! who are you ? Some vile outcast perhaps — But why should I call to mind circumstances so melancholy and mortifying ! Ah, Madam, with what inhumanity was I treated ! I blush even now when I recollect the expressions which that artful and hard-hearted man made use of : they convinced me too well that he believed me his daughter, but his hatred to my parents extended even to me.

He called for Mrs. Hammon, and examined her with an imperious tone. Being informed by her that Lidy was in the house, he sent for her, loaded her with menaces, called her by the bashest names, charged us all three with an infamous conspiracy, formed in concert to deceive him ; he would attend to nothing, he would hear nothing ; he treated them as impostors, and affected to consider their representations as so many base forgeries and scandalous falsehoods, invented with an infamous design to blacken Lady Sarah's memory ; and build my fortune and their own on the ruins of her reputation. Methinks even now I see them both prostrate at the feet of this cruel tyrant : while I was resting my head on the chair which he had quitted, hiding my face and my tears,

striving in vain to suppress my groans, and dreading in
Lord's disdainful looks worse than death.

Save the innocent and unfortunate daughter of my dear
mistress, said Lidy to him, save her from the dangers to
which she must be exposed when abandoned by every
one. Ah, why, my Lord, wherefore should I attempt
to deceive you! Have I any interest in imploring your
bounty? Alas! I do not desire to partake of it: Born
to poverty, I can, without any hardship, live by the fruit
of my labour. But Miss, brought up in affluence, has
not learned to support wretchedness and abasement. I
swear in the presence of heaven, I do not deceive you,
it is Lady Sarah's daughter whose tears you behold,
whose sighs you hear; will you refuse her shelter?
Make her condition secure.—Ah! had your Lord-
ship condescended to have read your daughter's, your dy-
ing daughter's letter, you would not now have charged
me with an attempt to impose a forgery upon you!

This, which was a kind of reproach, inflamed Lord
Alderson's wrath. He grew outrageous.—But suf-
fer me, Madam, to shorten the account of this hateful
scene. Expelled with indignity from his presence and
from his house, treated as wretches who made an attempt
on his honour, his fortune, and perhaps his life, we all
three quitted his seat, never to return again. My only
comfort, under such mortifying disgrace, was to see Mrs.
Hammon settled still more advantageously with a lady
who had wanted her for some time. Being obliged to
attend her mistress to Ireland, she wrote to me constantly.
When I found myself in a condition to make some re-
turn for her friendship, I heard with concern that she
was dead.

I returned to London in a situation of mind difficult
to describe. They are compleatly miserable, Madam,
whose imagination does not present them with the least
hope; even that vague and distant hope which amuses
the mind, leaves us at least the satisfaction of planning
schemes, and looking towards future times which we
flatter ourselves will be less distressful.

The first days after this severe trial, I endeavoured to
submit to the melancholy condition to which I found my-
self

self reduced. I tried to comfort Lidy, and to employ myself to some advantage as she did. But that talent which enabled me with ease to make myself mistress of ornamental accomplishments, forsook me when I was under a necessity of learning new lessons. My fingers, which could run over the keys of a harpsichord with such agility, were awkward at mixing the different assortments of the silks. I forgot my instructions every moment, and my dislike to the companions of my labour, made this apprenticeship intolerable to me.

On my arrival from Oxford, Mrs. Mabel advised Lidy to endeavour to fix me with some lady about court, or with some wealthy citizen's wife. Many women, she observed, would be glad of a young person fit to accompany them in public, and amuse them in their hours of retirement. At that time I felt a violent repugnance to any measure of this kind ; it would have parted me from Lidy ; and I then hoped for Lord Alderson's protection.

Besides, unknown as I was to all the world, without a friend to introduce me, to give any account of my morals and disposition, how could I appear in any family with no other recommendation to procure me admission, but my necessity ? How could I resolve to bear those natural interrogations, those questions which are usually made, those common-place inquiries which are so perplexing and mortifying, when we cannot answer them without disfiguring the truth, or blushing to declare it ; for we may be in a condition to blush, without having committed a fault.

Ah, Madam ! what barbarous and mistaken prejudice subjects so many innocent creatures to contempt, and suffers the authors of the crime, which thus reflects shame on them, to enjoy the public esteem ! Our ancestors have established laws which are highly unjust. Interest maintains them in full vigour, but the love of pleasure continually breaks through them. What a contrariety there is between our principles and our manners ! How can a man, who is determined not to attach himself, or who is already engaged, dare to give way to the impetuosity of his senses, and abandon himself to such intoxication ; he
who

who to gratify his desires, must dishonour the object of them, and run the risque of making a being wretched.

After my return from Windsor, my views were altered. I earnestly wished to find a patroness. Mr. Burnet, an honest tradesman, who employed Mrs. Mabel, was kind enough to use his endeavours to establish me in some family : In fact, he introduced me to several people.

Shall I describe to you, Madam, the rude reception, the haughtiness, the disdainful airs I experienced from those, whom my misfortunes inspired with a cold and mortifying compassion ? My youth and figure were the subjects of a thousand shocking reflections. Without any resolution to serve me, they expatiated before my face on the inconveniences which would attend their receiving me. I attended the toilets of twenty ladies, was examined, disconcerted, pitied, rejected, and received by none of them.

These fruitless and mortifying applications afflicted me exceedingly. Sir Humphrey's death contributed to overwhelm me quite, a melancholy gloom seized upon my spirits. It increased every day, and by degrees reduced me into that languid state which is the forerunner of a consumption.

Lidy was frightened at my ill state of health, she obliged me to keep my room, and endeavour to amuse and divert me. She accommodated me with provisions which she knew were suited to my taste. Her inquietude, her tender and constant attention towards me, induced me to suppress my feelings in some measure out of consideration to her. This restraint made my sufferings more severe, and I thought myself ready to sink under them, when chance offered me the means of changing my situation.

Lidy one morning led me into St. James's park, to give me an airing ; we were walking together a slow pace. At the turn of the walk, a gentleman who had quitted the path I was then in, turned back, and stopping before me, cried out : O goodness ! It is she, it is Miss Jenny Glanville.

Astonished at hearing my name, I looked on the person who uttered it, and immediately recollect ed Sir James Huntley.

Huntley. This meeting disturbed me. When we are under misfortunes we do not, without inquietude, look on those whose presence reminds us of happier days. At their appearance the emotion of our mind anticipates the mortification it dreads, or the comfort it expects.

The Baronet was so sensible of the pleasure of seeing me again, so delighted to meet with me by accident after six months painful and fruitless search after me, that he expressed a thousand different sentiments at once. He told me that he would not forgive my silence, nor that rigour which induced me to conceal my abode from Miss Clifford, with a view no doubt to withdraw myself from the importunities of a man whose love and assiduity were irksome to me. These reproaches were intermixt with transports of joy. He forgot the wrongs I had done him, and gave way to the pleasure with which my presence inspired him. Then he began to complain again, and to accuse me. Doomed to despair by my conduct towards him, his schemes of happiness, his dearest hopes were vanished. My indifference, my disdain, my aversion had banished them for ever ; he could never more be happy ! Totally engrossed by his own concerns, and by the lively and fluctuating emotions of his mind, he neither discovered the perplexity I was under, nor observed the alteration in my person.

My pale complexion, and that air of dejection which overspread my countenance, struck him at last. A tender sympathy was visible in all his features. He took hold one of my hands, and squeezing it gently : What do I see, said he ? What melancholy gloom o'erspreads that lovely forehead ? Dear Miss, you sigh, you suppress tears which are ready to start, and your melancholy looks pierce me to the soul. The lovely Jenny fetches deep sighs, and seems to scorn the friend whose heart is devoted to her. Ah ! speak, entrust your secrets to my sincerity. You will find me ready to serve you, and to prove by my zeal that sincere attachment, which your coldness and even your disdain can never diminish.

I have no secrets to communicate, said I at length, by which I can express any mark of confidence in you. If I never

I never countenanced Sir James's addresses, at a time when every circumstance gave me good reason to conclude that it was in my power to make him happy, it becomes me now to inform him, that, for his own advantage, he ought to stifle his affections.

For my own advantage, said the Baronet, what do I hear? How, Miss, are you engaged? Is the deep melancholy in which I see you involved, the consequence of an unhappy and precipitate union? Have you disposed of your heart, of your hand? Are your parents returned to England? Would they detach you from some beloved object, and dispose of you against your will? Does your affliction arise from the constraint they would impose upon you, or from the regret of having placed your affection improperly? Forgive these questions which are dictated by my zeal, and by a passion which at this moment is more violent than ever.

Neither my hand, nor my heart, I replied somewhat haughtily, are at the disposal of any one. I have no reproaches to make myself, and have not yet incurred reproach from others. If you would convince me of that friendship of which you endeavour to persuade me, do not persist in desiring to know the cause of my uneasiness, and give me leave to avoid those questions which add to the bitterness of my inquietude. While I was speaking, I advanced towards the gate with a view to take my leave; but Sir James stopping me; No, said he, I will not allow you this cruel liberty; you shall not quit me thus, you shall not deprive me of a blessing which chance has so fortunately thrown in my way; I will follow you every where, I will know that which you conceal from me. I am prompted, by too powerful an interest, to discover this mystery. If, as you declare, your heart is attached to no one, why are you so capricious as to avoid a man of whose affection you must be persuaded? Does my love make me troublesome to you? If so, I will never declare it more, I will lock up in my own breast the sentiments with which you inspire me: But at least vouchsafe to endure my presence, treat me as a friend, as a faithful and zealous friend. O my dear Jenny!

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from this moment I assume the title, and I swear to fulfil all the obligations it implies.

He had obliged me to sit down and hear him. The eagerness of his expressions and his emotions, redoubled my perplexity. He pressed me, he conjured me to speak. I felt an invincible repugnance against declaring my situation to him, and yet I found it impossible to conceal it from him long. I turned my eyes towards Lidy. By my looks I desired her to answer for me. She understood me, and addressing herself to the Baronet: A melancholy accident, said she, has made an alteration in Miss's circumstances. I am a stranger to the cause of her inquietude, and why she seems afraid to disclose it. The loss of fortune can reflect shame on those only who have been the occasion of their own ruin by their imprudent conduct. If Miss Jenny is not rich at present, she still is mistress of those qualifications, which rendered her amiable. She is no doubt obliged to you, Sir James, for the part you take in her concerns: Nevertheless as she is reduced to live in a condition very different from that in which she was educated, I cannot suppose that the visits of a man of your age can be admitted to a young lady, destitute of fortune and friends, and whose deserted state would become an additional misfortune if the most scrupulous decorum did not regulate all her steps.

This slight overture exciting the Baronet's curiosity, induced Lidy to enter into more minute circumstances. She concealed my parents names, without concealing their rank, my situation, or the loss of all my hopes. Lidy's intention, in placing such an entire confidence in the man who expressed such an eager desire of sharing his destiny with me, was to sound his sentiments; to keep him from me, if he had a view to my fortune, or was a slave to prejudice, but to second his pretensions, if they appeared so disinterested as to incline him still to the resolution of marrying me. In my situation, Sir James's affection for me, seemed to be a resource which it would be highly imprudent to neglect.

The Baronet listened to her with uncommon attention. Far from appearing cool on this discovery, it seemed to inspire him with emotions of joy. O my dear Jenny!

Jenny ! said he, How delightful will it be to me to repair your losses, how joyful to see serenity once more grace that amiable countenance. But allow me to reproach you on account of such a distinguished mark of your indifference towards me. How ! in such a deserted condition, did the remembrance of me never occur to your mind ? Did you never recollect that you had still a friend, an affectionate, a real friend remaining ? No matter ! forgotten and despised as he is, this friend is not the less determined to love and serve you. He will think himself overpaid for the kind offices he is ready to discharge, if you will condescend to accept them. Happy in throwing my fortune at your feet, I shall begin to value those possessions, which in my hands become the means of making your life agreeable.

Those misfortunes which affect our minds only, dispose us to be grateful to every one who appears to sympathize with us. But those which spring from poverty and degradation, occasion our nature to revolt against pity ; a sentiment which it is difficult to express, without humiliating the object of it.

This same Baronet who six months before, scarce dared to look at me, who was so afraid of my displeasure, and of offending me by a declaration of his passion ; now, grown bold by my misfortunes, seemed to consider himself as the arbiter of my fate. One would have concluded that the ruin of my hopes was the foundation of his, that it gave him an established right to my favour, that it rendered me dependant on him, on his love, and benefactions ! I cannot describe the pride and disgust which inclined me to reject his friendship, and to wish myself away from him : His offers did not inspire me with any sentiment of gratitude ; I was not affected by his forward zeal ; I was offended at the air of satisfaction which sparkled in his looks. Modesty and gravity would have been more suitable to the occasion. If it is generous to feel a pleasure in repairing the losses of a friend, it is more generous still to be concerned while we confer the obligation, to be sorry for the misfortune which renders our assistance necessary, and compels them to accept it.

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These nice distinctions do not occur to the generality of men. Being altogether under the influence of their passions, accustomed to prefer themselves to every other consideration ; their selfish desires and interest form the only point of view in which they examine every object. Sir James loved me, had lost me, and found me again ; he owed the pleasure of seeing me to accident ; it was a matter of no concern to him whether that accident was distressful to me. His most earnest wishes were gratified : Could he forbear being overjoyed, when he persuaded himself that the meeting with him, that his love and generosity might be deemed such advantageous resources to the wretch, who blushed to be pitied by him.

Being obstinately determined not to quit me till he knew my abode, I was obliged to declare it. He soon began to consider it as his own, by the assiduity with which he visited there, by his complaints with regard to the inconveniences of it, and the importunities he used to oblige me to change it. Lidy represented to him to no purpose, how impossible it was for me to procure one more convenient or cheerful : He soon removed all the difficulties which she pronounced insuperable : but he found us both resolutely determined to be under no obligations to him.

The Baronet in vain used every means by which he might engage me to receive his assistance. I refused his presents, and shewed myself offended at the liberty he took of making me such offers. He would have deposited in Lidy's hand a considerable sum, sufficient to have secured us both from the dread of want. She refused to take charge of it. The Baronet's conduct begat distrust in her, she was apprehensive that he was attempting to gain her, in order to seduce me ; and she imparted her suspicions to me. My coldness and indifference towards him increased. Sir James became penive, melancholy and uneasy, without ceasing to be assiduous, and even importunate. He visited me all hours of the day. Having no room to retire to, I was obliged to endure his presence, and hear his incessant complaints. He reproached me with my want of confidence, with

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my pride and ill placed haughtiness which made me reject the offers of his friendship. He could not tell, he said with some impetuosity, how far my cruelty might affect him: it might ruin him, it might be the cause of his death. He often represented to me the dangers to which my youth and indigence exposed me; he constantly entertained me with his love, with my own misfortunes, but never took notice of his original intention. He seemed to have forgotten that I was free, and mistress of myself. The only natural method by which he could engage me to be obliged to him, and to accept his favours, never entered into his mind. He expressed as much violence of passion as at Oxford; but his expressions of tenderness were in a different stile. It was no longer the language of a submissive lover who solicits favours; it was that of a protector who is disposed to grant them. He gave me no proofs of the amiable zeal of love, of pure and disinterested love; of ardent zeal! But which being timid at the same time acts in secrecy, industriously conceals itself, and thinks itself overpaid if it is useful and unknown.

Tired of Sir James's, long and frequent visits, of his importunities, of his conversation, of his offers, and of the shocking ideas which were suggested to my mind by the assiduities of a man, who did not appear to have honourable intentions, I entertained thoughts of moving my lodging, when Mr. Burnet wrote to me from Cambridge where his affairs had detained him for a month past. He acquainted me that a worthy lady had agreed to take me on his recommendation. She was a widow, not far advanced in years. Her only son was just then set out with a view to make the tour of Europe. Mr. Burnet enlarged on the advantages of this place. After several polite compliments, he desired me to be ready on a day appointed, as he proposed to spend but two in London, and was desirous of presenting me himself to the obliging lady whose protection and friendship he should think himself happy to procure me.

Such a favourable opportunity of avoiding Sir James would have afforded me greater pleasure, if I had not been under a necessity of parting from Lidy. Accustomed

tomed from my very infancy to see her, to love her, to act by her advice, to consider her as the only creature who was attached to me, I was most sincerely afflicted at the thoughts of quitting her. I could have preferred a life of labour with her, to a life of ease in which she could not participate.

Her representation, her prayers, her intreaties determined me not to reject the protection which was offered to me. I had a little money left, some jewels, with a rich and compleat wardrobe. I propos'd to leave her every thing, except my linen, my laces, and my cloaths for that season. What was to be allowed me for my maintenance, appeared to me sufficiently ample. By being frugal in that article, I hoped to exempt Lidy from too laborious drudgery. The wish nearest my heart was to make her condition more easy, as it was not in my power to make it happy.

I concealed my intentions from Sir James. But I could not help betraying an extraordinary confusion in his presence. You cannot without some perturbation behold a person to whom you are under a necessity of giving inquietude; the certainty that your future conduct will create him pain, makes you uneasy at the sight of him.

On the Tuesday following, the day appointed by Mr. Burnet, he called upon me about noon, and found me ready to attend him. He passed such high encomiums on the lady whose friend and companion I was to be, that Lidy, delighted with his report, eagerly asked him the Lady's name. He answered, that her name was Lady Lyndsey.

Imagine my astonishment, Madam, when I heard that name mentioned. The Lady, whose favour Mr. Burnet had procured me, was the mother of Sir Henry, was Lord Alderson's nearest relation, and the only person whom he constantly visited.

I was so affected at the capriciousness of my fate, that dropping into my chair, I gave vent to my tears and sighs, without being able to explain to Mr. Burnet,

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the cause of these emotions which must appear to him so extraordinary.

Lidy, deeply smitten with the same concern, acquainted him at length, that Lady Lindsey was the only Lady in England whose family could not afford me a convenient retreat ; as there were many powerful reasons which forbade my repairing to her. Mr. Burnet expressed great uneasiness that it had not been in his power to succeed in his intentions to serve me ; and without betraying an impudent curiosity, he retired, much dissatisfied perhaps with the fruitless attempt in which his benevolence had engaged him.

Sir James came in the minute after. I was standing when he entered the room, with my face hid in Lidy's bosom ; I embraced her closely, and we both wept bitterly. My attitude, my tears, and Lidy's likewise, alarmed the Baronet. He earnestly enquired into the cause of this new source of distress. We were obliged to yield to his importunity, to acquaint him with Mr. Burnet's kind endeavours, and the unlucky accident which frustrated their good effect : In short, we explained the reasons which made us dread meeting with Lord Alderson, and determined us to avoid him for ever.

Instead of endeavouring to comfort me on this melancholy event, Sir James flew into a passion with me and Lidy. He accused her with giving me false notions with regard to his intentions. Could you, said he, prefer a painful servitude, to the repeated offers of an affectionate friend ? Your unjust prejudice deceives you, and makes me desperate. The more I endeavour to be serviceable to you, the more your suspicion of me increases. Dare you avow, ungrateful as you are ! from what reasons you distrust me, and my designs. Have I asked any unbecoming recompence for the services I have resolved to render you ? Have I required the slightest return for my resolution to establish your fortune ? I have been silent. My affection made me fearful of putting any restraint upon yours. A delicacy, from whence I hoped for the most pleasing effects, has hitherto prevailed upon me to keep my desires as secret as possible. I did not propose to declare them till time and

and the tranquil state to which I hoped my endeavours might restore you, should have inclined you to have received those proposals with pleasure, which you almost rejected at Oxford. To have required Miss Jenny to have sacrificed her liberty, before I had conferred any obligations upon her, would it not have appeared like taking advantage of her distress? Would it not seem as if I imposed laws upon her, and extorted a consent from her, for which I ought to have been indebted to her esteem and affection? Then addressing himself to Lidy : Speak, said he, repeat to Miss, the offers which you have represented to her in a criminal light. I confess that the little success of my addresses, at Oxford, her forgetting me during my absence, her remarkable uneasiness on meeting with me again in St. James's park, have too well assured me that she can never sympathize with me in affection. Under these circumstances, how have I behaved ; I have endeavoured to alleviate her distress, and to render her condition independent of others and of myself. Is this an attempt against her honour? Nevertheless this disinterested view has only served to make her doubly disdainful, and to inspire both her and you with distrust. What remains for me to say, to do, to attempt, to hope! For me, who am pierced with the most keen and bitter anguish - - - Here he broke off, took two or three turns up and down the room, drew near to me again, took hold of one of my hands, squeezed it and sighed : O Miss, Miss, said he, in a melancholy tone, you do not know how much you grieve me. My heart is rent. If you had loved me, this hand had been given to me, it had been mine! All my wishes had been fulfilled - - - but you have never shewn any esteem, any partiality for me. I am condemned to cherish a tender and unfortunate passion which cannot affect you. One only consolation presented itself to my despairing mind, that of serving you : And you cruelly deprive me even of that : Of all the instances of your cruelty, this last distresses me most.

When he had done speaking, Sir James dropped his head upon my hand which he still had hold of. I perceived

ceived it bedewed with his tears. His tenderness, his words, the moving manner in which he uttered them, that seeming candour of an honest mind ready to confess its errors, made me apprehensive of really deserving Sir James's reproaches, if I carried that distrust too far, with which he had charged me already. The motives which induced him to be silent with regard to his intentions, appeared to me too noble and generous not to claim a grateful acknowledgement. Lidy perhaps was mistaken, and had led me likewise into an error.

Pardon, said I to the Baronet, pardon a conduct, of which the motive arises from that restless fear, which is the companion of my misfortune. The world has been represented to me in strange colours. The poor live in it, as if they did not exist; no one has any concern for them. My want of experience makes the dangers of this world, to which I am a stranger, appear magnified to my sight. Cast from my infancy into this wide universe, where I am destitute of support; I look about me with fear and trembling: Every being around me is attached to another by some kind of tie. I, the only sequestered solitary thing in nature, find myself here in the condition of a young bird, just dropt from its mother's nest, which in vain extends its feeble wings towards an asylum it cannot gain.

Sir James transported by a strong and passionate emotion, threw himself at my feet. No, said he, you are not deserted, you are not the only solitary thing in nature, a heart impressed with the sentiments of tenderness is attached to you, and takes part in your concerns; reveres you, loves you, adores you! You behold at your feet a friend, a lover, a husband, if you will condescend to receive him. Pledge me your faith, accept of mine, and I become your guardian and protector; I will shelter you from all those dangers which alarm your fears. O my dear Jenny! Cease to weep, look at me with those expressive eyes; if they do but assure me that you do not hate me, to morrow, this evening, this instant if you will, I bind myself to you for ever, and dedicate

dedicate the remainder of my days to make yours happy.

The sound of protector, guardian, husband, cheered my dejected spirits, revived me, and inspired me with a kind of veneration for him who assumed such honourable titles ; I repented having judged ill of so generous a man. The sentiment which struck my mind, made me in some degree experience the same emotions in favour of Sir James, which had affected me at the first sight of Lord Alderson. At his reiterated intreaties, I turned my eyes towards him, and no doubt but my looks expressed marks of gratitude. The Baronet thought they expressed a more tender sentiment. Transported with joy, he rose from his seat, threw his arms round me, and clasped me to his breast, crying ; O my lovely Jenny ! That look proclaims my happiness, which I date from this instant.

From that moment there was a confidence and intimacy established between us. Sir James made me acquainted with his situation, his views and expectancies. Though born in Scotland, he hated the country, and earnestly solicited some employment at court. The Duke of Argyle his relation, used his interest to procure what he desired. As he was educated in his infancy under a mother who was bigotted to the church of Rome, there were suspicions with regard to his religion. It was necessary to remove them. The Duke of Argyle laboured that point with his utmost endeavours ; but for some time past Sir James thought he had reason to complain of his backwardness to serve him, and suspected him of keeping an intelligence with one of his relations, who was obstinately bent on marrying him in Scotland, where she had procured a rich heiress for him. He earnestly wished to obtain the employment he solicited. His arguments persuaded me that it was necessary for him with respect to his fortune. The fear of being disappointed of so considerable a provision, might, among other reasons, have induced him to be so long before he declared his intentions with regard to me. Lidy was of the same opinion with me ; and her notion confirmed me in mine.

Gratitude

Gratitude seldom opens the heart to love ; but it gives birth to a serious sentiment, which is less impetuous, but perhaps more permanent. It inclines us to complaisance, renders us attentive to the interest of the person to whom we are obliged, it augments, in our estimation, the benefits we receive, and keeps us in constant fear of offending him, or of abusing his favour.

Sir James pressing me to fix the day when I would make him happy, I thought myself obliged to represent to him, that, under his present circumstances, his marriage with me would be the height of imprudence. When the Duke of Argyle found him wedded to one who brought him neither fortune nor alliance, he might grow more indifferent, or perhaps become quite averse, and cross his designs. The relation who was bent on marrying him in Scotland, and from whom, as he said, he expected a large inheritance, would perhaps, out of resentment to him for his choice, alter her will. Ah ! How bitterly should I reproach myself hereafter, should I find him involved in uneasiness, and not be able to conceal from myself that I was the primary cause of it. I intreated him to spare his regret, to take time to consider about such an important measure, and to wait at least till he should have obtained the place he solicited.

Sir James appeared to be extremely affected at this proof of my affection, it made a violent impression on him, indeed too strong an one for the occasion. His eyes were moist with tears. He thanked me tenderly, hesitated, seemed perplexed, and told me, with an air of timidity, that it was easy for me to reconcile his interest with his desires, if I would consent to dispense with the pomp of a public ceremony, and agree to live two or three months for him alone. There was no inducement which could make me wish to appear in public, and the splendor of a grand wedding was but ill suited with my condition. As Lidy did not disapprove of Sir James's importunity, and even interceded for him in order to hasten my resolve, I yielded to their solicitations, and fixed the day which I was so ardently importuned to appoint.

As the influence of habit made me prefer the country to London, Sir James hired a house at Islington. The articles of marriage, were examined by Lidy, and she thought them greatly in my favour. After they were signed, I found myself obliged to accept of very considerable presents; the Baronet perfectly loaded me, and his impatience equalled his profusion. The near approach of the time which I dreaded, redoubled his transports, the idea engrossed him totally, he seemed so delighted to find me ready to fulfill his wishes, so happy in the assurance of living near me, with me, and for me, that I secretly blushed at my inward dejection of mind; I accused myself of singularity, of ingratitude; my heart reproached me with my indifference towards him, yet could not grow warm in his favour. Ah! Madam, what different views are happiness and fortune.

Sir James having obtained a licence, left me to choose the place where the ceremony should be performed. It would have been difficult to have had it performed in my apartment, without making Mrs. Mabel and all the women in the house acquainted with it. We agreed therefore to be married at a minister's of his acquaintance, and to set out for Islington immediately after having received the nuptial benediction. Lidy and Sir James's Valet de Chambre agreed together about the removal of my effects. She likewise undertook to apprise her sister of our departure, and to put a stop to her curiosity by a fallacious confidence.

The day fixed to tye this solemn knot, came at last. Being arrayed in white, without any affectation of dress, I repaired to St. Paul's church at eleven in the morning. Francis, the Baronet's Valet de Chambre, waited for me there. I went with Lidy into a Landau, which carried us to a house of middling appearance: A decent kind of woman came forward to receive me: She ushered me into a parlour very handsomely furnished, and desired me to rest myself, while they went to give notice of my arrival to Sir James, who had been for some time troubled to get rid of an unseasonable visitor. They presented me with tea and chocolate,

but I could not possibly take either. The Baronet made haste to come. He was vexed to find me so disordered ; I was so weak, that, in handing me up stairs, he was obliged to stop several times ; he trembled likewise, and seemed to be in violent agitation.

He led me into a large closet ; the windows half shut and the curtains drawn, made the place cool, but dull and gloomy. A young, well made man, whose noble and graceful air was altogether striking, came to me and paid me a compliment ; I scarce heard him, and could only answer by a low obeisance. He spoke to Sir James in a low tone, and continued talking with him a long while. The minister, his clerk, Lidy, the Baronet's Valet de Chambre, the woman who introduced us, and the young cavalier were the only witnesses of our mutual engagements. My confusion obliged Lidy to answer for me to the minister's interrogations. I could not refrain my tears, when he asked this question : *Who gives this woman to this man ?* The stranger who had been talking with Sir James, took me by the hand, and presenting it to Sir James, said aloud, *I*.

How melancholy, Madam, did my situation appear, compared to that of a girl brought up among her relations, under the eyes of a tender father, and led by him, with becoming pomp, to the foot of the altar, there to take upon her the name of a lover, proud to receive her hand by which he acquires a right to her affections, and who immediately after the awful ceremony finds herself the happy daughter of two fathers, two mothers, the object of the attention, complaisance and caresses of two families, who unite to cherish and protect her.

My tears shocked Sir James, he grew pale, called for water, and smelt to some salts. His sensibility affected me ; I took pains to stifle my uneasiness, for fear he should attribute it to that indifference, with which he had so often reproached me. I was no longer at liberty to remain indifferent, at least to appear so. I sincerely wished, when I took upon me the name of a wife, to entertain every sentiment which might

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contribute to the happiness of a man, whose disinterested generosity merited my gratitude and affection.

The minister having joined our hands, and pronounced us man and wife before the small company present, Sir James took me in his arms, and embraced me eagerly. The person who officiated as a father to me, desired leave to salute me, which he did with an appearance of remarkable sensibility. I learnt from Lidy that he testified uncommon surprize, even astonishment, when he saw me come in, and that he shewed vast uneasiness during the ceremony. My confusion would not permit me to pay any attention to the emotions of those about me. Wholly taken up with my endeavours to suppress my own, and to conceal that excessive melancholy which it was out of my power to banish, it was impossible for me to take notice of what passed around me.

We left the minister: And the carriage which brought us thither, drove us to the banks of the Thames, where a barge was waiting for us. Sir James handed me and Lidy into it, he then dismissed the coach and the only servant that attended us, and afterwards seated himself close to me, and ordered them to put off. The watermen, after rowing some time, landed us at a round summer-house facing the river. Sir James clapped his hands, and at that signal a young girl who worked in a garden, opened a little gate, and shut it carefully, after he got in. She led us towards a pavillion which was pitched behind some high shady trees, which concealed us from view towards the water side. The apartment in which she left us appeared to be more full of decoration than furniture. Every thing there was agreeable, but it was not provided with conveniences fit for a constant abode. I sat down to the tea-table, and was vastly surprized to find no one attending me but the young country girl.

The gloom of the place terrified me, I turned towards Lidy, and her looks added to the terror which already began to take possession of my mind. The Baronet perceived my uneasiness, and was in haste to remove it. You are not at home, my dear Jenny, said he.

A reason, which I will communicate before you leave this house, induced me to bring you hither, to spend the greatest part of the day. This evening you shall quit it to take possession of your own house. You will there find servants ready to wait upon you ; and meet with every thing which can render the place cheerful and even delightful. I have omitted nothing which might contribute to embellish your abode. I dare hope that my endeavours will meet with a flattering reward. The pleasure of seeing you satisfied with me, and made happy by my attention to promote your felicity ; this, my dear girl, is the pleasing recompense which a heart devoted to you wishes to obtain.

This discourse gave me comfort. I drank tea ; and afterwards went with Sir James, under a thick arbour. It stood at the end of the terrace, which opened to the pavillion I had first seen ; and which was composed of a large room and four closets ; this place afforded a most cool and agreeable retreat. Sir James obliged me to rest there, and I remained with him alone till three o'clock. The ringing of a bell then gave us notice to withdraw to the room where we were to dine. The young country girl and Lidy prepared a delicious repast, which was served up by Sir James's Valet de Chambre, who arrived a few minutes after us.

The most lively joy embrightened the Baronet's countenance ; his air of felicity, the tenderness of his looks, of his conversation, and the violence of his passion, which was conspicuous in every motion, could not altogether compose my agitation of mind. Confused, dejected, insensible to his caresses, to his transports, my mind could not participate of the satisfaction he expressed.

When dinner was over, we returned to the pavillion : Lidy had orders to attend there at seven o'clock, when she came, Sir James desired her to sit down, then seated himself between us, took hold of one of my hands, kissed it over and over ; and after a short silence, It is time, my dear Jenny, said he, to explain to you my mysterious conduct, which may at first have startled you, and made you suspicious of my intentions. I have lately

lately acquired an incontestable right to your favour: And that emboldens me to open my mind to you. My honour and fortune should from this moment become objects of your concern. It is not to Miss Jenny, it is to my wife, it is to the lovely creature formed to ensure my felicity, that I am going to describe the perplexed situation in which I stand at present. It is such, that by the solemn engagement I have made to day, I have hazarded the ruin of all my hopes; that however would be a trifling consideration, but in risking the loss of my present possessions and of my future expectations, I at the same time expose myself to reproaches I deserve, to an unlucky discovery, and what still affects me more, to the appearance of being ungrateful, nay, I become actually ungrateful, by making a cruel return to the kindness of a lady who is my relation, my friend, and whom I am bound by every obligation to love and respect.

Sir James paused and turned away his head, to conceal from me the marks of his violent emotions; but I could plainly perceive by his broken accents how strongly he was affected. Being anxious to learn what he was going to communicate, I listened to him with close attention.

When I saw you at Lord Clare's, he proceeded, every thing seemed to promise that my fortune would be prosperous. I am descended from the brave Lord Huntley, who sacrificed his fortune and his life to the interest of the unfortunate Charles I. My family, which was formerly noble and opulent, persevering in attachment to the descendants of their late sovereign, forfeited their title and estate. The ruin of their fortune did not lower their pride, and so far were they from supplicating the favours of a court, that they gloried in their poverty. My father, who was the eldest of that loyal family, had the good luck to be agreeable to Miss Limeric, of the house of Hamilton, a rich heiress by her mother's side, and at her own disposal; she married him, reserving to herself the property of her estate, and the power of disposing of it. My father did not enjoy his good fortune long, he died, and left me an infant: my

sister, who was three years older than I, was already grown my mother's darling : By an agreement which is common among married people of different religions, my sister was to be bred a Roman Catholick, and I was to be educated as a protestant. My relations, by my father's side, undertook to take care that such principles were instilled into me. My mother, whose party was proscribed in Scotland, durst not oppose their intentions. No doubt she hoped that her immense fortune would give her the absolute guardianship over me ; being disappointed in that attempt, she conceived a vast indifference towards me, and my sister became the sole object of her affections.

I was brought up at the university of Glasgow. Lady Rutland, my father's cousin, had an estate in the neighbourhood ; when she was there she made me visit her, and took delight to encourage me in my studies, by rewarding me for the progress I made : She made me amends for my mother's neglect, and I was indebted to her for all the conveniences I enjoyed at Glasgow.

Six months after I quitted the university, I set out on my travels to the different courts of Europe, and maintained a regular correspondence with the Duchess of Rutland ; my open and undesigning heart appearing without disguise in my letters, I concealed nothing from her, not even my indiscretions ; she frequently assisted me with her advice, and her generous friendship extended itself farther ; finding the income my mother allowed me to be but slender, she doubled it. My governor, by her order, left me for a long time in the opinion, that this addition was owing to the representations he made to Lady Huntley.

I passed six years abroad. When I came home, I did not meet with that kind and endearing reception from my mother, which the respect I paid her, my obedience to her will, and my good conduct during my travels, gave me room to expect. My sister, who was sickly from her infancy, was dangerously ill, and died soon after my return. My mother's grief for the loss of her was immoderate ; and my presence, instead of asswaging, seemed to increase it. Lady Rutland was then

then in Ireland ; Scotland soon became intolerable to me, and I resolved to quit it.

I had formed a scheme for my advancement in life ; I was determined to make court to my sovereign, to serve him, to deserve his favour, and to engage him to restore me to the titles and antient splendor of my family. I intreated the Earl of Blair to communicate my intentions to my mother : As she was in her heart extremely averse from the reigning family, such a scheme was not likely to be agreeable to her ; but the little pleasure she took in my company, determined her to let me pursue my own inclinations ; she recommended me to the Duke of Argyle, leaving the steps which it would be proper for me to take to the discretion of that nobleman, and requested him to procure me some employ in the army, or about his majesty's person ; she allowed me a considerable income, received my parting embraces, and saw me depart without expressing the least mark of tenderness for a dutiful son, who could not quit her with the same indifference.

When I came to London, the Duke of Argyle was at Bath ; I did not think it proper to be presented to his Majesty by any other : While I was waiting his return, I entered into the various amusements which the town affords, and renewed my acquaintance with several people of fashion whom I had met with abroad. Lord Clare was of this number ; the deep affliction in which I found him involved, affected me ; and I often went to share with him his solitary moments : I was far from thinking that my heart would there meet with the object of a passion as exquisite and as permanent as his, but destined to be more fortunate. In your company, I lost all attention to my fortune ; wholly engrossed by the desire of pleasing you, I flattered myself, that notwithstanding your indifference, I should move you to be favourable to my addresses.

Lady Ruland, being returned to Scotland, wrote to me frequently ; she was surprized that I had not yet taken some step towards my establishment. The Duke of Argyle was at London, but you were at Oxford, and I could not leave it. I was nevertheless under a necessity

of coming to that resolution : The Earl of Blair acquainted me that Sir ——— Thanet, a young gentleman without fortune, but of distinguished merit, had made such a rapid progress in my mother's heart, and inspired her with such a violent passion, that she did not endeavour to conceal her affection. He pressed me strongly to come, in hopes that my presence might put her in mind of a title, and of relative duties which she seemed no longer to recollect. Hurried away by her passion, she may, said he, forget that she is the mother of a man who is wholly dependent on the dispositions she may make. This news surprized me the more, as the Dutchesse of Rutland did not mention a word of it ; I knew her too well, to suspect her of being an accomplice in my ruin. Nevertheless, her excepted, all my relations gave me the same intelligence exactly which the Earl of Blair had communicated.

At any other time, I should have thought that as my mother was mistress of her own fortune, she had a right to dispose of it without my consent ; but I wanted a fortune to obtain you from those who had the disposal of you, and I adored you. Under such circumstances, the prospect of poverty appeared to me insupportable. I resolved to go, I determined to fly and save my inheritance at the hazard of my life. Sir ——— Thanet appeared to me no less the destroyer of my felicity, than the spoiler of my fortune. The violence of my rage hurried me into indiscretion : I wrote to the Earl of Blair, I acquainted him with my departure, and made him the confidant of my intentions. Ardently longing to meet with Sir ——— Thanet, I violently tore myself from the pleasure of your company, and took the road to Edinburgh.

I travelled night and day, and took no respite but to write to you : About two stages on this side of Edinburgh, I was attacked with a violent fever ; it immediately seized my brain, and made me rave incessantly : A worthy priest with whom I lodged, took particular care of me. It was necessary to bring me low, in order to save my life ; and for seven days it was uncertain whether I should recover from this dangerous illness.

My

My Valet de Chambre, not knowing the reason of my returning to Scotland, wrote in haste to my mother to acquaint her with the condition I was reduced to, and to let her know the place where she had obliged me to take up my abode. I know not what she thought when she heard I was so near her ; but at the eighth day of my illness I beheld, with extreme surprize, Lady Rutland at my bed's head.

The presence of one whom I loved, and who, I was persuaded, had an affection for me, delighted me, and moved me to tenderness ; I expressed some signs of weakness when I perceived her squeeze me by the hand. We continued silent for some time ; her behaviour, her kind looks convinced me that she still retained the same friendship for me. Her taking no notice of my mother's inclinations, made me doubt the truth of my intelligence. The Dutchesse heard my complaints with kind attention, and without entering into my detail, she desired me to think of nothing but my recovery ; she assured me that she would continue near me, that she would visit me every day till I was perfectly restored ; and as rest and silence were absolutely necessary to me for that purpose, she left me in the care of one of her women, and of a physician whom she brought from Edinburgh with her.

When I came to myself, and was nearly recovered, I sent to Lothian, whither I had desired you to direct for me. They brought me a letter from Miss Clifford. She acquainted me that a few days after my departure you had left Oxford, and that she could not yet tell where you lived in London. This news alarmed me. I waited for a second letter with the utmost impatience. At length it came to hand ; but it added to my inquietude, by confirming me in the assurance that Miss Clifford was a stranger to your situation. She continued to write to me, and her letters destroyed the small remnant of hope I had left. Her friendship for you, or perhaps her complaisance for me, engaged her to send an express to London, to your guardian ; he was dying, and could not be seen ; his domesticks said that they neither knew Miss Glanville, nor any of her relations.

I will not attempt to describe the deep affliction in which I was involved, at the thought of having lost you for ever. Your image was ever present to my mind, and my imagination led me to a thousand melancholy conjectures. I was in alternate doubts, whether your parents had recalled you, whether you were gone to Jamaica to them, or whether their return had deprived me of you? Sometimes, supposing you to be in the midst of the sea, exposed to the fury of the winds, I trembled for your life; the next minute I fancied that I saw you serene, contented and indifferent, quite unmindful of the wretch whose tenderness could not affect you, and crowning the desires of some more happy lover O my dear Jenny! These different suppositions suggested by a restless spirit, were still less mortifying than the melancholy truth. You wept, you sighed under your misfortunes, they preyed upon you in secret. How essential to our mutual felicity would one word have been, penned by that dear hand! Your confidence in me might then it would have saved me the reproach Ah, Jenny, Jenny! Why but this is not a time . . . no, I am no longer at liberty to complain of you. —

As soon as I was able to endure the motion of a berlin, I attended Lady Rutland to Douglas. The Earl of Blair came there to see me. No body spoke to me concerning my mother, they eluded my questions, and gave me no answer, till at length I understood that she was married. Though I was still in a weak condition, yet roused by my rage alone, by my desire of wreaking my vengeance on Sir — Thanet, whom I accused as the author of all my misfortunes, I resolved to leave Lady Rutland, and repair to Edinburgh in quest of him, and to sacrifice him to my resentment, or end my days by his hands, since I had no prospect of felicity.

My intentions were known to the Dutchess of Rutland; and it was to prevent my putting them in execution that she carried me to Douglas. She endeavoured to pacify me and trusted to the ascendancy which my respectful attachment to her gave over my mind.

No woman was ever more amiable, or more universally esteemed than Lady Rutland. Born in London, she inherited a vast estate in Scotland in right of her mother, was married to a nobleman belonging to the court and of great influence in the kingdom ; at the age of nineteen she became a widow, and mistress of fifteen thousand a year. Her conduct, which was somewhat singular, made her for a long while the object of publick attention. She alone perhaps knows the secret of uniting the most scrupulous decorum with a certain free mode of living, exempt from all restraint and controul : She is perpetually travelling without quitting her country, and the still continues to run over the three kingdoms, stopping wherever she is entertained, and every where leaving behind her some tokens of her benevolence. Her rule of life is to be useful to others, and agreeable to herself. Her features are handsome. Her serenity of mind makes her still preserve the appearance of youth. She is generous, sincere, plain in her language, but elevated in her sentiments ; she is agreeable, interesting, beloved and respected ; one cannot forbear feeling somewhat like veneration for her ; she inspires that solid and tender affection, which uncommon and acknowledged merit never fails to produce.

I am no stranger, said she, to the design you meditate, and I do not blame you for having conceived it ; to abhor the man who has usurped your rights, is a very natural and pardonable sentiment : But if you are capable of moderation, if you will take the advice of your friend, you will not give way to extravagant resentment, and you will abandon the cruel intention which led you hither. Revenge is but a poor and transient passion ; the moment it is gratified it is gone, and lasting regret succeeds. Will you justify your mother's indifference towards you, and incur her hatred, by attacking the life of a man whom she adores ? Will you pierce with sorrow the heart of her who gave you birth ? Will you sacrifice the object of her most tender affections, before her eyes ? Will you dare to deprive her of him ? And if you should, can you expect that she would .

would ever pardon such an offence ? So far from repairing your loss, this fruitless crime will compleat your misery. But how can you be assured of victory ? May not you fall in the combat ? In either case consider what advantage you can derive. Reflect upon it, Sir James ; you run the risque of wounding your mother's heart, of giving her inexpressible grief, of perishing yourself, or of being irrevocably disinherited.

I made no answer. Agitated by a thousand different emotions, I could not yet yield to the force of these arguments, though their propriety struck me, and disposed my mind to receive milder impressions.

As I consider myself the primary cause of your misfortune, the Dutches continued, I think myself bound to devise some means to alleviate your distress. It was I who brought Sir —— Thanet into Scotland. His father had an affection for me from my early infancy. Sensible of his merit and struck with his person, I should have given him the preference, had I been left to my own disposal. But the Duke of Rutland's vast fortune and influence, determined my relations to dispose of me to him. I gave him my hand, but the image of Sir —— Thanet, was always present to my mind, and dear to my affections. By the time I became a widow, he was married ; which gave me real concern. I went every where in quest of Sir —— Thanet, and the hope of meeting with him, was the sole end of my travels. I found a pleasure in giving way to my affections ; he was a stranger to them, but his eyes frequently assured me that he had not forgotten his early attachment.

Sir —— Thanet was killed in Germany. I was extremely afflicted at his death, I shed tears for the loss of him, pleased myself with preserving the idea of him, his memory is dear to me, every thing which belongs to him, every thing which recalls him to my mind, becomes agreeable to me, and acquires a right to my friendship.

I met

I met with his son in Ireland ; he had lately lost his mother, and the immense expence of a tedious law-suit swallowed up the remnant of his fortune. I was moved at his situation, and found in myself a strong propensity to serve him. I attached myself to his interest : at my request he followed me hither ; your mother came here to spend two months with me, and I entrusted her with my intentions with regard to young Thanet ; I intended him for my niece, a rich heiress, left entirely under my guardianship, by my sister's will. She is but nine years old ; and he would have enjoyed a great part of her fortune in the mean while, before the possession of her person entitled him to the whole. Lady Huntley, hurried away by an extravagant passion, made him an offer of eight thousand guineas a year. My niece will have much more : but the time to come always appears very distant to the imagination of youth ! The present advantage determined the Knight. Without acquainting me, he signed articles of marriage with your mother ; they were married in private, and when the Earl of Blair indiscreetly advised you to come hither with a view to oppose it, it was no longer in any one's power to prevent it.

I have thus communicated to you the motives of my friendship for Sir —— Thanet ; I dare now require you to sacrifice your resentment, and intreat you to accept the offer which I intended for him. Yield to my desires, give me the opportunity I have lost of making one man happy : I promise this moment to acknowledge your acquiescence by a present of Here I hastily interrupted her, Madam, said I, let me hear no more, the pleasure of obliging you is to me sufficient recompence ; Sir —— Thanet shall quietly enjoy the fortune he has deprived me of ; so far from attempting his life, I find myself dispos'd to defend him if you require it. But let this sacrifice be disinterested ; allow me to decline your generous offers : I am not over solicitous about fortune ; happy in meriting your esteem, and preserving a friendship I so highly esteem, I shall be delighted under the most distressful circumstances, to have given you a convincing testimony of my respect and submission,

This

This readiness, said the Dutches, to grant me a request I so earnestly wished to obtain, this noble disinterestedness, doubles my obligation to you. But we will quit the subject for the present, and resume it at Bristol, whither I am going to pass a few days; You will not refuse to bear me company: Lady Huntley has remitted me a bill of two thousand guineas to reimburse the expences of your journey; there it is, said she, presenting it to me; she does not wish to see you, but I will take care to keep up your interest with her; she has increased your income, and Alderman Burton, who manages her affairs in London, has already received orders to supply you with such a sum as may be necessary to equip you for the employment which the Duke of Argyle is to procure you. I do not press you to accept the proposal I have just now made; nevertheless, my niece, can with the offer of her hand, restore your family to the titles and estate, which, from the disordered state of the nation, you have not yet been able to recover. I leave this subject to your serious consideration; and in a month's time I shall desire you to acquaint me with your resolution. We set out the next day; at Douglas I received a letter from Miss Clifford, which gave me no intelligence of you. The instant I got to England, I sent my Valet de Chambre to London, with directions to find out Sir Humphrey, to ask intelligence from the friends and relations of that gentleman, to make the strictest inquiries among them, and to omit no means of discovering what was become of you.

A letter from the Earl of Blair made me acquainted with the full extent of the obligations I owed to the Dutches of Ratland. She alone pressed the Duke of Argyle to interest himself in my favour. My mother, so far from concerning herself about my welfare, had even forgotten that there was such a being existing. The bill for two thousand guineas, the stock lodged with Alderman Burton, the augmentation of my income, all flowed from the generosity of the Dutches. Struck with the conduct of this respectable friend, and entertaining a grateful sense of her favours, I thought myself at length obliged to yield to her desires.

Without

Without hope of ever seeing you again, of ever being made happy by love, I determined to attempt happiness through the medium of ambition. Ideas of grandeur began to intermix with those sentiments of tenderness with which I was so deeply affected. Being at liberty to accept of a proposal which the greatest nobleman in England would have been forward to solicit, I began to reflect on such advantageous offers. Lady Rutland importuned me : I promised, and entered into a solemn engagement to marry young Lady Betsy Arran in four months. . . .

Sir James was proceeding, but perceiving me turn pale, and ready to drop from my chair, he cried out, and throwing his arms around me endeavoured to revive my spirits. Ah ! said he, from whence arises this fear ? Wherefore this terror ? Why is my dear Jenny alarmed ? O my lovely wife ! take comfort ; a solemn contract has united us for ever, you are the choice of my heart, the knot already tied destroys every other engagement ; hear me, believe me, do not mistrust the man who adores you. If you will condescend to put confidence in my solicitude, and yield to my desires, every thing will be managed agreeably to my wishes and your own.

Sir James's caresses, his arguments, his oaths, his protestations, nothing in short could quiet the uneasiness which seized my mind, he could not recall my attention ; my tears flowed apace, and I did not hear him. Ah, great God ! said I at length, a confidence of this nature ought surely to have been previous to the ceremony of this morning.

If your affection had been as powerful as mine, said Sir James, I should not have incurred this reproof which affects me so sensibly ; I should then have committed my welfare to your care. You must have perceived me for a long time agitated, restless, pensive and uneasy ; I was struggling with myself, and earnestly desired to withdraw my promise, before my union with you. How often have I wished to speak to you ? But there was such an appearance of forbidding haughtiness in your looks,

looks, of cold indifference in your heart; in short you discovered such a violent prejudice against me, that I was afraid of losing you for ever, if I made you acquainted with my condition. How could I disengage myself, without quitting you for a while? I must have returned to Lady Rutland, and have confessed my passion, my inquietude, my desires to her; I must have endeavoured to move her, to soften her, and engage her to restore me my liberty: But the obstinacy with which you refused every mark of my friendship, and rejected my repeated offers to serve you, determined me to keep as near you as possible. How could I resolve to leave you in such a melancholy abode, exposed to want, reduced to the necessity of working for your subsistence, and determined to accept the first asylum that offered? What would have become of me, if, at my return, I should have found myself a second time bereaved of you, the only object dear to my affections? Pardon me, thou amiable creature, for having attempted to secure you, at the hazard of displeasing you. Here he paused, looked earnestly at me, seized my hand, and kissed it; perceiving that I was still in affliction, and not disposed to return him an answer; O my lovely Jenny, said he, I will not give you uneasiness; I will sacrifice fortune, honour, dignity, every thing to her I love! I was going to desire you only to wait a year before you took my name upon you, and appeared openly as my wife, that I might have time to prepare Lady Rutland; I would not have had her acquainted with the day of our marriage, that it might seem hereafter to be concluded with her consent; this deference is due to her, even though I refuse her kind offers, and decline the projected alliance. It is to me a dreadful reflection to be deficient in paying a just regard to a relation, to a friend who has so strong a claim to my gratitude; but I will return every thing for which I am indebted to her generosity, I will abandon the hope of a rich inheritance, the certainty of a title, every thing in short. Ah! What is grandeur, what are empty titles to me? Did the pursuit of these acquisitions ever usurp the place which you hold in my affections? O my dear Jenny!

Would

Would to heaven ! . . . Why, ah ! wherefore did you not accept of my hand at Oxford ? Why were we not married before that fatal journey ? The loss of your hopes and of my own would then have appeared but a trifling accident. Reduced to my patrimonial pittance, without any other possessions than my small paternal inheritance, I could have lived contented on the most barren mountain of Scotland : It would have grieved me no doubt to find myself incapable of procuring you any other pleasures than those arising from affection ; but if you had lov'd me, if you could have supported our common wants without uneasiness, I should have had nothing to envy or regret. Of what consequence is the garment we wear, the food which nourishes us, or the prospect which opens to our view, when we feel an inward delight, in the enjoyment of a felicity which we prefer above all others, and which alone, in our estimation, is capable of gratifying all our wishes. Here Sir James paused, and, with an air of melancholy and quietude, waited my reply.

When we leave it to the opinion of a person of any generosity, either to secure to us, or to deprive us of those advantages which we seem to slight on their account, there cannot be a more powerful inducement to engage them to prefer our interest to their own, and to prize our satisfaction above their own felicity. A thousand mortifying reflections occurred to my mind when I considered to what suspicions the required secrecy would expose me ; nevertheless, a moment's recollection made me mindful of my recent vow, and of the indispensable obligations of my new condition ; I thought myself no longer at liberty to oppose Sir James's inclinations. As it is often disagreeable and always in vain to make remonstrances concerning past transactions, I thought it more prudent to submit to dispositions which it was not in my power to alter.

I should be very unhappy, Sir, said I, should I oblige you to live in obscurity, you who have generously rescued me from that state to which my ill fortune condemned me. Pardon the sudden effect of an involuntary emotion ; I wish I could have concealed it from you, and I
reproach

reproach myself on account of the uneasiness it has occasioned you. Explain your intentions, and I will conform to them. You have a right to prescribe laws to a grateful mind : And they will never appear rigid, whenever your interest and happiness compensate the sacrifice made to your desires.

O thou charming creature, said Sir James, transported with joy, I swear by your dear self, that every day of my life will remind me of your kind and generous behaviour. When I was afraid to unbosom myself before you, I did not know all the dignity of your mind. O my dear lovely Jenny ! Your tears have pierced my soul, but your complaisance has ravished me with delight. I wish that I may ever be able to make a suitable return. Ah ! May heaven punish me in its wrath, may it part us, and deprive me of you for ever, if I make the least opposition to the slightest of your wishes, if I do not prevent them, if your satisfaction is not the principal object of my solicitude, and if I expect any other happiness during the remainder of my life, but that of contributing to your felicity.

These declarations of gratitude were succeeded by the most affectionate caresses : he then began to explain the measures he thought proper to be taken in order to keep our marriage secret. The necessity, said he, of my daily attendance in London, and my wish not to pass a day without seeing you, determined me to choose a house for you near town. I could find nothing in the neighbourhood so proper for my purpose as a house at Islington, which stands by itself and is extremely pleasant. I would have purchased it, but the owner would not consent to part with the wing which she occupies herself. It is entirely detached from the main body of the house with which it has not the least communication, but it commands a view of the garden. I have inquired into her character. Her name is Roberts, she is of a genteel family, is the widow of a clergyman, and lives in a very retired manner. I told her in confidence that I expected a young lady of fortune and fashion from Coventry, who had promised marriage to my brother, a young officer in the navy, who was now actually at sea.

sea in the service of his country. The lady's relations, I added, pressing her to receive the addresses of another Miss Jenny has resolved to put herself under my protection, that she may be at liberty to dispose of herself to the man whom her heart approves. Neither of us, I continued, can ascertain the time when my brother will come home; Miss will wait his arrival at your house. I concluded with desiring Mrs. Roberts to call you nothing but Miss Jenny, and never, in the hearing of any one, to mention the name of Asteley, which I told her was the name of your family. She promised to comply with my directions, she undertook to provide servants to attend you, she introduced them to me, and I have hired them on her recommendation.

In the character of my brother's confidant, my visits will not appear suspicious: I will endeavour not to make them too frequent in the day time, but every night I may easily visit you without being discovered, by means of a door which opens into the fields. I have cut through two apartments, which will lead me to the foot of a back stair, concealed by a bye way contrived on purpose. Through this avenue, I shall reach your closet. Lidy, and one of my Valets de Chambre, whose fidelity I have experienced, shall be the only persons entrusted with our secret: My horses shall wait for me at a neighbouring farm; no one will ever suspect our intercourse; and when I can detach myself from the dear delight which your presence and society afford me, I will go in quest of Lady Rutland. I will disclose my mind to her, I will avow my passion, without confessing that I am in possession of the dear object which inspired it. I will tell her that I was attached by love, before I was bound by my promise: I know her disposition; she is too good, too indulgent, too kind to afflict me. She will release me from my engagement; she will not deprive me of the favours she has conferred upon me; she will not change the generous dispositions she has made. I shall preserve her esteem, her friendship, and the certainty of a large fortune of which my dear Jenny will be mistress. I will then declare our marriage as if it had been lately solemnized; I will present

present my lovely companion to the Dutchess, to my relations, to the court, to the whole world ; then every one will admire the object of my love, my choice will be applauded, my happiness be envied, and all my wishes fulfilled.

In the conclusion, Sir James asked me if I had any objections to the arrangement he proposed, or any repugnance to comply with it. I did not think it prudent to declare any. Nevertheless I was mortified at the thought of representing the character he obliged me to personate. I blushed to myself at the necessity of appearing, before my own family, as a fond girl, who preferred her passion to her duty, as one capable of withdrawing herself from the natural authority of her parents, and of sacrificing her reputation to her affections by such a rash and indiscreet proceeding. The retired manner in which I must necessarily live, was the only circumstance which could make such a situation tolerable. I answered Sir James, that as I no longer considered his interest separate from my own, I was ready to conform to his will, and should endeavour to make my felicity consist in doing every thing which might contribute to promote his happiness.

He had the precaution to procure riding habits for us. We made choice of two, which Lidy and I rumpled, that they might not appear to be quite new. We then crossed the garden, and went out of the house through a back door, which opened into a narrow lane which led to the high road. A berline and six was ready to receive us at the end of the lane, and quickly carried us to Islington. When I got home, Mrs Roberts paid her respects to me. She addressed me very politely. My servants, to the number of ten, were summoned by her order ; she told me their names, and acquainted me with the several capacities in which they were to serve me. I invited her to supper, but she excused herself, and left me when they brought word that it was upon the table. Sir James went away with her, telling me in a cool polite manner, that he should call the next day to receive my orders, and know whether

whether his first endeavours had succeeded to my wishes.

I made haste to get supper over, that I might retire in good time. I hoped to enjoy a little respite, that I might rest after my fatigue, or amuse myself with my own reflections ; but I had scarce begun to talk with Lidy, when I heard a little noise. My closet door opened. Sir James came in, and I found myself obliged to devote those hours to him, which it would have been more agreeable to me to have passed alone.

The Baronet's taste and magnificence had converted a convenient, but plain habitation, into a cheerful and agreeable abode. Nothing was omitted to embellish it. Two grass plats, enamelled with various flowers, terminated in a large piece of water ; into which a great quantity of fish had been thrown, to give me the pleasure of fishing. At the end of the grand walk was an aviary full of delightful birds ; there were likewise animals of every kind which contribute to amusement in the country. In short nothing was wanting ; and a beautiful set of Neapolitan horses were ready whenever I had a mind to take an airing in a berlin or chariot. I was infinitely delighted with this agreeable retreat ; it afforded me that ease and tranquillity which made me so happy at Oxford. Musick, reading and drawing were my principal amusements. But Sir James sometimes disturbed my pleasures. He reproached me with entertaining a coldness which I had without perceiving it. My complaisance, my dolicity, that extreme and constant solicitude with which I endeavoured to express my esteem and gratitude, were not sufficient to gratify his passionate desires. He required a warmth of affection from me, of which I had never even entertained an idea ; and he was continually lamenting that he could not inspire me with the sentiments he wished.

I was too much indebted to him, not to wish to see him contented ; but I wished it dispassionately, and from motives which arose from a benevolence of mind, and not from that kind of sensibility of which Sir James would have made me susceptible. The equanimity of my temper made him uneasy. He enquired into the particulars

particulars of my conduct, made himself acquainted with the manner in which I employed myself during his absence, and seemed sorry to learn that I relished those amusements which he had industriously provided for me. The excess of his tenderness appeared rather troublesome than agreeable ; I thought there was something whimsical in his desires and in his complaints ; they who have never been in love, cannot conceive what inquietude a heart deeply enamoured will create itself. The Baronet's uneasiness convinced me that it is possible to gratify love with the last favour, and yet not ensure its happiness.

Ten months elapsed, and yet Sir James shewed no disposition to leave me, nor ever spoke of the time when he intended to go to lady Rutland. Nevertheless by degrees he laid aside restraint, and was less upon his guard before the servants. The place he then enjoyed at court obliged him frequently to attend the King's levee, therefore he went to town every morning, returned again at seven, and never left me during the rest of the day. I durst not complain of a conduct which, under the circumstances I stood, did, in my opinion, betray a want of proper regard for me ; the most distant reflections on that subject drew his reproof upon me, and either moved his resentment, or created him uneasiness ; my indifference, he would tell me, made his assiduities troublesome to me. This idea nevertheless did not make him abstain from the pleasure he took in my company, but made him chide me every moment because I could not participate of it to his wish. By a kind of preposterous desire, he would have had me indebted to him for his transports, his caresses, his indiscretions, and for every thing in short which he did to oblige himself.

In the beginning of spring an unlucky accident brought Mrs. Roberts into the utmost danger. As she was going to London in an open chaise, she was overturned, and received a dangerous wound in the head ; I was affected with the poor woman's melancholy condition ; and the compassion I felt for her, was presently accompanied

accompanied with the apprehension of being obliged to quit my abode.

The court went to Tunbridge. Sir James's attendance could not be dispensed with ; this gave him real vexation, and he complained a thousand times of a confinement which had been the object of his ambition. On the day of his departure, he spent a considerable time in seeing some painters at work, who were finishing a perspective. Two windows from Mrs Roberts's apartment commanded the spot where Sir James and I were sitting. Being unable to restrain his importunate fondness, he kissed my hand several times. I made him take notice that an elderly man and a genteel kind of woman, stood behind the windows, and seemed to observe us closely. He looked towards the windows, but they suddenly disappeared, then drew the curtains, and continued to watch us, by peeping through them. We went in without paying any regard to their curiosity. Sir James went away in the evening, with an intention to return soon, and to find some pretence for seeing me again before the time expired for his residence at Tunbridge.

His absence leaving me mistress of myself, I made Mrs Roberts an offer of whatever assistance she might require, and regularly inquired after her health. Before she met with this accident, my servants and hers had had some little intercourse together ; as I now sent messages to her several times a day, they had opportunities of seeing each other oftener, of becoming more familiar, and they soon entered into mutual communications.

One of my women informed me that Mrs Roberts was the daughter of a very wealthy gentleman : By her fondness for a young clergyman, the Earl of Somerset's chaplain, she lost her fortune, with her father's affection ; she sacrificed both to the pleasure of giving her hand to the man she loved. Five years after their marriage, Mr. Roberts died. The Earl of Somerset, moved at the condition of his unfortunate widow, continued to pay her the income of one hundred a year, which he allowed her husband. That nobleman dying without

without having made a will, Mrs Roberts thought herself a second time destitute of every support. But she found a new patroness in the Earl's sister ; this generous and compassionate lady not only settled upon her for life the rent of a small farm sufficient to supply all her wants, but likewise caused the house to be built in which I then lived, made the gardens pleasant, and made Mrs. Roberts very easy in her circumstances, by putting it in her power to make an advantage of that part of the house which she let for a hundred a year.

This poor woman was no sooner taken ill than she wrote to her benefactress, and desired her to send one of her stewards to take possession of her effects. She should be glad, she said, to find them return to their original source, as no doubt they would issue forth again for the comfort of some new object of that bountiful lady's compassion.

Instead of sending her steward, her benefactress dispatched her valet de chambre, a surgeon, and one of her women to her relief. The surgeon was a man of skill in his profession, and had orders to take particular care of her ; her woman had directions to attend her constantly, to comfort her, and to promise her from my lady, that in her way to London, whither she proposed going soon, her ladyship would leave the road, and pass through Islington on purpose to pay her a visit.

Lidy going into mistress Roberts's apartment one evening, found this woman who was sent to attend her, sitting by her bedside. Lidy's appearance seemed to inspire her with jocularity, she attacked her in the way of raillery, asked her several questions with a forward and familiar air of assurance ; she inquired about my birth, my fortune, and particularly about my intimacy with Lord Danby. Lidy, tired with her interrogations, and offended at the familiarity of her manner, made answer ; Miss knows nothing of Lord Danby, receives no visits from him, and is not accountable to any one for her conduct ; though she can always give a very satisfactory account of it. Upon which the woman, repeating these last words, began to exclaim : Good God ! What assurance ! But your discretion is to no purpose,

purpose, I know as much of the matter as you perhaps, and so do others. She added, with an air of disdain, Miss knows Lord Danby, she is very well acquainted with him ; you will own that she is very soon. After this she went away, and would not yield to Lidy's importunities, who pressed her to stay that she might undeceive her.

When Lidy acquainted me with these particulars, it put me in mind of the impertinent curiosity of some people whom I had observed. I thought there might be a strong resemblance between Sir James and Lord Danby. I rallied Lidy for taking notice of such a trifling occurrence. It did not seem to me to be worth inquiring into, and I thought no more of it.

I received the most affectionate letters from Sir James. He expressed a strong desire of seeing me again, and complained how irksome it was to him to be detained at such a distance from me. His last acquainted me that his arrival was at hand, and I expected him every moment.

On the twelfth day of his absence, the noise of a carriage coming full trot, drew me to my closet window, and I saw a coach and six attended by four horsemen, drive into my court yard. By the coronets on the top of the berlin, it belonged to a peer of the realm. A lady richly dressed stepped out, and was followed by two women. The person whose questions had offended Lidy, ran to meet her. The lady spoke to her with a smile on her countenance ; and seeing one of my servants in the court yard, she beckoned to him to come to her, and no doubt ordered him to open the parlour which she stepped into. Immediately I received a message from her, inviting me to come down and receive a visit from a Lady of Mrs. Roberts's acquaintance, who earnestly desired the pleasure of seeing me and conversing with me.

This message surprized me. I very naturally concluded that the Lady whose grand deportment had just now struck me, was the Earl of Somerset's sister, Mrs. Roberts's generous benefactress. But to what motive could

I attribute her eager desire of seeing me ? Who could have raised such a curiosity in her ? I did not find myself inclined to receive her visit. The conversation the woman had held with Lidy began to disturb me, and to make me apprehensive of some mistake, which might expose my reputation, or risk the discovery of my secret. I thought, that there might probably be a Miss Asteley, for whom that Lady mistook me. Being quite perplexed and undetermined, I was going to send an apology, when tired of waiting so long, she came up stairs, accompanied only by the woman who had lately attended Mrs. Roberts.

Perhaps Miss, said she as she came in, I disconcert you. But the desire I had of seeing you, made me disregard idle formalities. Then turning towards her attendant ; How beautiful she is, Bridget ! said she, in a low tone. What a noble, modest, and graceful air ! Is it possible . . . I pity her indeed. Then addressing herself to me, You seem confounded, Miss : I guess the cause of your confusion ; but be not afraid. I will neither hurt you, nor insult you.

She was sitting while she spoke, and I had taken my seat opposite to her. I do not know, said I, with vast emotion, whether I ought to thank your Ladyship for these assurances. I am however obliged to you for the compassion you are pleased to honour me with, but I am at a loss to conceive what has made me the object of it. My conduct and sentiments are such as place me above the apprehension of insult from any one.

Miss, her Ladyship replied, this haughtiness does not become you ; you are wrong to display such arrogance, when I treat you with kindness. Do not convert my pity into a justifiable contempt. You appear to be a lovely girl, and I am not surprized that you should be the object of an extravagant passion. If the retired way in which you live is not the effect of Lord Danby's jealousy, but the result of your own choice, I shall entertain a good opinion of your character. But tell me, how long is it since you first captivated his Lordship's heart.

I repeat

I repeat it to your Ladyship, said I, that I am astonished at the sentiments of compassion you express for me. The closer I examine myself, I think it less probable that I should ever become an object of *justifiable contempt*. I never saw Lord Danby in my life, and cannot conceive what can have subjected me to the mortification of hearing such reflections ; and of answering such offensive questions.

I have already told you, Miss, said my Lady, that these high airs do not become you. Do you think they will impose upon me, and persuade me to believe you ? Then turning to her woman, who stood behind her chair, I am sorry, very sorry, said she, to see so lovely a creature in such a bad way of life, and more so to find that she takes pleasure in it.

A sudden blush immediately overspread my countenance, and I perceived that my tears were ready to gush. Your Ladyship, said I, just now assured me, that you would not insult me ; I was in hopes that you would have paid more regard to your word.

It is you, who force me to break it, said she, in a milder tone. How can I endure the confidence with which you deny facts ; You say that you do not know Lord Danby ; notwithstanding there are two people who cannot mistake his person, who have seen him here frequently, and out of a zeal which I disapprove of, have watched his steps ; by which means they are perfectly convinced that he passes a great part of the day, and all the night with you ; a private door—— But I will not press this discovery any farther.

Her discourse confirmed me in the opinion that there must be such a strong resemblance between Lord Danby and sir James, that the one might be easily mistaken for the other at a distance. This accidental likeness, as I imagined, exposed me to the impertinence and resentment of this Lady, who had no doubt an interest in Lord Danby's conduct. How could I undeceive her, without betraying a secret I was forbidden to reveal, and yet how could I endure that contempt which her mistake led her to entertain for me ?

I am not arrogant, said I rising from my chair, nor used to bear such language. I beg your Ladyship to be assured that you can gain no intelligence here concerning the Lord who seems to make you uneasy, and I hope you will excuse me if I withdraw and leave you to reflect on the rudeness of your expressions, and the rashness of your conclusions.

I intended to have left the room, and drew towards the door, when her Ladyship's woman, anticipating her reply, came up to me, and stopping me, said: Take care, Miss, take care of your own expressions. You ought to behave with more respect. You stand before the Dutches of Rutland.

The Dutches of Rutland! said I, dropping into a chair, and scarce able to breathe. In an instant I concluded that my marriage was discovered, Sir James's fortune ruined, and all his schemes overthrown. But if they knew me, why did they talk to me about Lord Danby. This was what I could not conceive.

It seems, Miss, said the Dutches smiling, that the very mention of my name has in a great measure lessened your assurance. I find that my visit is by no means agreeable to you. Nevertheless as, in going to see Mrs. Roberts, I was led into your apartments by a whim, in which neither love nor jealousy have any share, I advise you to banish your inquietude. I will not disturb the pleasure of your union, which seems to be agreeable to you. I should be very sorry to make James uneasy. He must have told you, that our engagements do not put him under the least restraint.

These words increased my perplexity. She talked of my union with Sir James, and just before she had given me to understand that she looked upon me as Lord Danby's Mistress. I kept a profound silence, and was lost in the confusion of my own ideas.

Wherefore, said she, do you look so downcast, why are you dumb? How childish is this! What makes you uneasy, why do you blush? Take heart. Lord Danby is at Tunbridge; is he not? I am going there, I shall

see him : And I promise you to compliment him most sincerely on the happiness he enjoys in the possession of the prettiest creature in England.

This stroke of raillery pierced me to the soul, and gave me courage to speak. May I presume to ask you, Madam, said I, whether this raillery is not too cruel ? What have I done that you should treat me with such severity ? Sir James may not have paid the regard which is due to you ; he has no doubt behaved with an indiscretion highly culpable. But if he has made an ill requital for your favours, in what respect am I criminal ? You accuse me of a scandalous commerce with Lord Danby, and yet you seem to be acquainted with the tie which binds me to Sir James. Have I deserved to be mortified to such a degree ? Was it my part to ask your consent ? Alas ! when a series of melancholy events made me yield to the desires and importunities of Sir James, I was a stranger to the engagements he had entered into with you.

Do you consider what you say, Miss, said the Dutchess, from your appearance I should not have expected such audacity ; dare you talk to me in this manner ! But why do you speak of James and Lord Danby as different people ? Surely you cannot be ignorant that Sir James Huntley, now become Earl of Danby by marrying me—What do I hear, said I, by marrying you ? Sir James Huntley and Lord Danby one and the same. What ! is he married ! He was married then—Ah God ! My voice failed, a deadly chillness froze my heart, and I fell breathless at my Lady's feet.

My piercing cries drew Lidy and my women into the room, and they were eager to give me assistance. When I opened my eyes, I found Lidy by my side all in tears ; I threw my arms around her, and laying my head upon her bosom, I am betrayed, ruined, discoloured ! said I, without regarding who heard me ; am fallen a victim to the dexterous intrigues of a vile impostor, who has cruelly ravished from me the only jewel I had left. O my dear Lidy ! lead me hence, hide me, I am now poor indeed, I may now be truly

said to be stripped of every thing. O Lady Sarah ! O my mother ! your dreadful prediction is fulfilled ; misery and shame is the lot, the only inheritance of the unfortunate Jenny.

Lady Rutland, astonished to see me in such a condition, ordered Lidy to dismiss my women ; and she seated herself on the sofa, on which they had laid me ; How, Miss, said she, is it possible, that deluded by vain promises, you should have ever entertained the hope of becoming Countess of Danby ? Could he debase himself so far as to use false pretences to deceive you ? —— But how ? By what art could he conceal a marriage from you, which was solemnized at London, in St. James's chapel, in the presence of the King and the whole court ? Did you live at a distance from the capital ? Since when, and in what place, did you become acquainted with my Lord ? Who are you ?

I am nothing, said I, Madam ; like a plant torn from the earth and thrown aside as useless, any one may tread me under foot, without being afraid that a single creature will rise in my defence.

The Dutchesse being moved, condescended to give me her hand, and to press mine with an air of tenderness. Lift up your eyes, my dear girl, look at me, said she, with a tone of kindness. Do not be afraid to speak to me. You do not know how much I am dispos'd to be indulgent to you. I am strongly affected by the appearance of such violent and unaffected grief. Be ingenuous with me. I may become your friend, your protectress. I take an interest in your concerns. I begin to excuse you. You are young, Lord Danby is amiable, he gained your affections ; passion naturally begets confidence. But how cou'd he impose upon you, what are these *dexterous intrigues* with which you reproach him ?

Neither love, nor indiscretion, said I, have been the cause of my misfortunes : I have not been seduced, madam, but deceived, shamefully deceived ! It is by means of an holy ceremony, of sacred oaths, that an inhuman wretch has sported with honour, truth, nay heaven itself ! in order to obtain a right over an innocent creature,

ture, to add infamy to her misery, and to ravish from her much more than her ill fortune had already stripped her of.

The Dutchesse shewed marks of surprize, and rose from her seat. She ordered her woman to go and wait for her at Mrs. Roberts's. She paused, walked hastily up and down the room, then coming back to me again, Consider well, Miss, said she, what it is you would intimate to me. *Sacred oaths ! an holy ceremony !* What can I make of such wild expressions ? I see that grief has disordered you. Compose your mind, which is too much agitated ; recover yourself ; do not be afraid of me. I am not attached to Lord Danby in consequence of an absurd passion. My curiosity begins to change it's object. At present it is wholly excited by the tender compassion I feel for you. Speak to me, my dear girl, tell me all your secrets. Once more let me ask you, who you are ?

I have already told your Ladyship, I replied, that I am nothing. Descended from two noble houses, I find myself without parents, without friends, deserted and unknown. Educated in the certainty of a genteel fortune, my misery is excessive. Though married to a man of fortune and distinction, I have no husband. Though virtuous at the bottom of my heart, I nevertheless find myself degraded to the rank of those despicable women, in whom motives of interest or vanity have stifled the principles of virtue. Then, falling on my knees, with my hands and eyes uplifted to heaven ; Just God ! all powerful God ! said I, who art witness of my innocence, and of the grief which oppresses me, hear my voice ! hear my fervent prayer ! Open to me thy paternal bosom ! Vouchsafe, O my God ! vouchsafe to receive me in thy mercy, before my murmurs and complaints have made me guilty in thy sight !

The Dutchesse shed some tears, kindly helped to lift me up ; then addressing herself to Lidy : How this unfortunate young creature affects me ! said she. You seem to possess her confidence, explain to me these expressions which astonish me : She is married, and *has no husband* ! Who then is this husband of distinction . . .

Surely

Surely it cannot be I hope it is not
Here she paused.

Sir James Huntley, said Lidy, is the only man with whom Miss Jenny's misfortunes have connected her ; she knows no other.

How ! said the Dutches, is it him, is it Lord Danby whom she accuses Could he married ! How, or, since when, in what place, what proofs ? . . . I have none, Madam, said I, interrupting her. Every thing concerning me is veiled in a mournful obscurity. Then making an effort to speak, after stopping a thousand times, and interrupting my mortifying detail with my tears, my cries and sighs ; I gave her a succinct and faithful account of my birth, my education, and my ruin, that fatal event, which had induced me to receive with gratitude the hand of a base deceiver, who was artful enough to engage me to secrecy by placing a confidence in me, of which I had no room to suspect the truth. At last, to convince the Dutches that my credulity was not occasioned by any fond weakness, I shewed her the two letters I had just received from Sir James. He therein complained throughout of my want of tenderness, and reproached me, with sacrificing a great deal to duty, but nothing to love.

The Dutches heard me with vast attention, read the letters, lifted her eyes to Heaven, sighed, then clapping her hands together : To what fatal extravagances, said she, the impetuosity of our passions is capable of leading us ! What a good disposition, what a noble mind, has renounced honour and humanity to gratify a wanton desire, to procure a momentary pleasure, a pleasure exquisite perhaps, but which the reproaches of his own conscience must dash with bitterness ? She then ran over the letters again, and repeated some of the most tender expressions. How absurd and cruel are men, said she ! They are in love, they say ! To deceive the object of their desires, to subject them to lasting regret, to debase them, to leave them a prey to grief, to shame ! Are these the effects of their love ? What then must be the consequences of their hatred ?

These reflections were succeeded by a long silence ;

at length drawing near to me, taking me by the hand, which she squeezed affectionately. Weep, my dear Miss, said she, give way to your tears, but do not blush. You are unfortunate, but Lord Danby is criminal, he is much more to be pitied than you ! Every thing he told you is strictly true, except his pretended engagement with Lady Betsey Arran, his relation and mine. I have no niece. The Earl of Somerset, my brother, died about twenty years since, without ever having been married. As it was not in my power to dispose of a great part of my estate, without entering into a second marriage, I came to that resolution, with a view to ensure a splendid fortune to Sir James. He then deserved the concern I took in his welfare. When I left Bristol, I came to London, and brought him with me. Upon my solicitation, his Majesty was pleased to appoint him one of the great officers of the crown, conferred the title of Earl Danby upon him, and gave him a seat in the house of Lords among the Peers of the Realm. A marriage so disproportionate both with respect to age and fortune, did not expose me to any degree of raillery. My motives were very well known. Every one was glad to see me raise up the house of Huntley, restore an antient family to its original lustre, and repair the injustice of a mother, whose conduct was universally condemned. But as generosity was the sole motive which inclined me to enter into this union, I did not receive a master, when I accepted of a husband. Lord Danby acquired a right to my fortune, without gaining any over my person. I continued to live separately, and required nothing of him but such a conduct as might justify my friendship, and the step it had induced me to take.

In this affair therefore nothing concerns me but Lord Danby's honour, and your misfortune. I reproach myself for having given way to a curiosity excited by the letters I received from Bridget, the woman whom I sent to attend Mrs. Roberts. I was desirous of knowing whether a mistress, concealed with such precaution, treated with such respect, visited with such punctuality, deserved to engross the affections of one, whom I took

to be a man of sensibility and delicacy. I have discovered Lord Danby's secret, destroyed your pleasing error, and disturbed my own peace. Our common ignorance was a blessing to us both. You lived contentedly, and I did not know that Lord Danby was no longer worthy of my esteem.

The Dutchesse desired to hear the particulars of my marriage again. Lidy answered all her questions; for my tears would not allow me to speak; Cease to weep and sigh, said the Dutchesse to me, with an affectionate tone. Tell me, my lovely girl, what are your intentions at present, what measures do you propose to take? You have no proof of the horrible conspiracy which has thrown you into Lord Danby's arms: You are a stranger to the wretches who are accomplices in your ruin; alas! if you could discover them, to what right could you lay claim? A prior engagement would make the second void. Forced to accept of the trifling recompence which you may recover by law, by the law, which injustice often interprets partially in favour of the rich and powerful, you will add to this melancholy accident, the scandal of a publication more mortifying than the misfortune itself. I do not doubt your integrity, I am convinced that you have been deceived, I see that you are to be pitied, and your interest concerns me deeply. Dare you entrust yourself altogether to the care of Lord Danby's wife? I make you an offer of an asylum, of my protection, of my support, of my friendship; come, my dear child, throw yourself into my arms. They were always open to receive oppressed innocence.

At these words, a sudden and tender emotion cheered my dejected spirits. I threw myself at the Dutchesse's feet, took hold of her hands, and, bedewing them with my tears! How, is it you, Madam! what, is it you! I repeated, who condescended to pity me, to protect me, to offer me an asylum? You! from whom I expected, from whom I had no right to expect any thing, but hatred and contempt. Do you receive me in your arms, is your generous heart open to the lamentations of an unhappy orphan, do you weep over me, you, Madam! Ah! may Heaven quit me of the obligation, and reward

reward your kindness. The latest prayers of an unfortunate girl shall be for the happiness of Lady Rutland.

She clasped me to her breast. Dear Miss, do you consent then, said she, to leave this place, and come with me to London? Ah Madam, I will attend you, said I, I will obey you. Be mistress of my fate. Alas, I am so near sinking under the weight of my affliction, that I perceive with regret I shall not live long enough to testify my gratitude.

Make haste, said Lady Rutland, to Lidy; collect all Miss Jenny's most valuable effects I will take nothing away, said I, interrupting her hastily. O, may the presents of that vile impostor never Pardon me, my Lady, he is your husband, your relation, but he is likewise the basest Ah, all the respect I owe you cannot make me stifle the expressions of so justifiable a resentment.

I was still upon my knees, with my head leaning on the Dutches. She lifted me up, embraced me, went towards Lidy, spoke to her, ordered her to send for Bridget, and to call her servants. I proposed at first, said she to me, to have gone along with you, but I recollect Mrs. Roberts, and I should vex the poor woman was I to go away without seeing her. I will pay her a short visit. As for you, my dear, you shall go to London, attended by your favourite waiting woman. Bridget shall follow you there. She will conduct you to a Lady's, where you will see me again in two hours time. Retrain your tears, compose your mind, rely on my friendship, depend on my most affectionate regard. Let not this cruel accident degrade you in your own esteem. The guilt of it belongs to another.

Struck with the sense of such exalted benevolence, I was going to reply, when Bridget came into the room. The Dutches made a sign for me to hold my tongue. A strange mistake, a resemblance of names, said she, has made us very unjust. I have found out that Miss Jenny is a young Lady of quality, whose morals, notwithstanding appearances, are irreproachable. We have been mistaken. I know the whole affair. I charge you to

to conduct her to Mrs. Morice. My coach shall take her there. I will make use of hers to get there myself. I enjoin you to behave to Miss with due regard and respect, and introduce her, in my name, to Mrs. Morice. I would have her treated like myself. The Dutchesf then took me by the hand, came down stairs with me, embraced me before all the servants, and gave them her orders with an air of pleasantry and satisfaction. I got into her coach ; Lidy and Bridget took their seats opposite to me, and, attended by two horsemen, we took the road to London.

The presence of Bridget was a restraint upon me ; I durst not look towards Lidy for fear of giving way to the emotions of a mind full of anguish, I suppressed my sighs, and endeavoured to refrain from tears. We were travelling with a kind of melancholy silence, when, within two hundred yards of town, we met a post-chaise going at a great rate. I did not perceive it, but I heard a voice, which cried out, Stop. At the sound of that voice, with which I was too well acquainted, I was seized with terror. The Dutchesf's servants obeyed. How could they do otherwise ? It was their Lady's husband, it was Lord Danby, who, thinking to find the Dutchesf in her coach, drew near to salute her.

He expected her the next evening at Tunbridge. Never imagining that she was acquainted with Mrs. Roberts, he was very far from expecting to meet her in a road which was quite out of her way. He was going to Islington, with an intention to set out again the next day. Seeing the Dutchesf's livery, and finding himself too near her coach to avoid being perceived by her or her servants, he took the resolution to stop and alight, sacrificing the pleasure he proposed to himself at Islington, to the solicitude with which he endeavoured to conceal his conduct, and to the necessity of discharging an indispensable duty.

END of VOLUME the FIRST.

